

SOCCER

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The Young Socceroos are primed and ready for the U20 World Cup in the UAE.

ARABIAN NIGHTS FOR YOUNG ROOS

By Peter Damalas

The Young Socceroos departed for South Korea on Sunday to play in a four nation tournament in the lead up to the World Youth Championship, taking place in the United Arab Emirates in late November.

Youth coach Ange Postecoglou, announced the twenty man squad two weeks ago, with a few changes to the team that was initially prepared to contest the event in the Middle East earlier in the year.

The problems in Iraq and concerns about security forced the re-scheduling of the championship to November, and Postecoglou has subsequently been forced to look over the candidates for selection once again.

"I'm pretty happy with the side at the moment. I've had a good look at them and we are at the fine tuning stage of preparation" he said.

Newcomers to the squad include former Sydney United lynchpin, Mile Jedinak (now with Varteks in Croatia), defenders Mark Milligan and Steve Pantelidis, and midfielders Anthony Danze and 18 year old Jobe Wheelhouse from Newcastle United.

Postecoglou looks to have struck a fine balance in the squad, with David Tarka and Alex Wilkinson providing the basis for a

solid backline. In midfield, hopes will rest with the creative qualities of Carl Valeri and South Melbourne duo Massimo Muroccia and Vince Lia. The defensive midfield position is likely to be contested by Brisbane's Matthew McKay and recent addition Jedinak.

Up front, Postecoglou has remained true to his original selection. Captain Scott McDonald will lead the charge, with capable support from the multi-talented Alex Brosque. Sydney Olympic's Michael Baird makes up the forwards, although he is likely to start as a reserve for the team.

These players have been rather busy of late, having returned from a two match tour of the host nation, during which the Young Socceroos drew the first match and won the second 2-0, the goals coming from Lia and McDonald.

The group learned a great deal from these two matches according to Postecoglou.

"We had a good look at the conditions- the weather and the ground, and we have a good feel for the place. We played well over there and we know what to expect" he said.

The down side was the loss of Melbourne Knights defender Daniel Piorkowski, whose season has ended due to a knee injury sustained in the second minute of the first match.

The Young Socceroos have four matches to prepare for the opening clash with

(Continued On Page 2)



Brad Maloney: Stallions experienced midfielder will apologize to Durante this week.

Andrew Durante: Power defender is now at home recovering from his horrid injury that has sidelined him for up to 12 months.

Heartbreak 'HELL' For Durante

By Peter Damalas

The Round 6 match involving Marconi Stallions and Parramatta Power will long be remembered for one of the most controversial incidents in recent years.

The tackle that has quite possibly ended the season for Power defender, Andrew Durante, and the ugly incidents involving both coaches and supporters, has sparked a great deal of debate in Australian soccer circles.

The result, a 2-1 victory for Parramatta, is now considered of academic importance to many people involved with the club.

In the 43rd minute, with the away side a goal to the good, Marconi captain Brad Maloney clattered into the 21 year old as he attempted to clear the ball. Replays indicated that Maloney leapt into the tackle with the studs of his boot raised on his shin, and Durante subsequently cartwheeled in the air before landing awkwardly.

The 31 year old experienced midfielder, who played for Parramatta last season before returning to his former club, was sent off for the offence by referee Perry Mur, and has received a two match suspension for the red card and for serious foul play.

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Johnny Warren Cup in Full Swing Page 2



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Heartbreak 'Hell' for Durante continued

Durante was replaced by Jacek Sobczyk, whose 2002-2003 campaign was also cut short with a season ending injury.

Durante spoke about the trauma immediately after the tackle, which left him writhing in pain on the ground, from his home after an operation on his snapped tibia and fibia last week.

"When it first happened, I knew I was gone. I said to myself, 'There goes the hard work that I put in'. I thought I had been having a very good season so far and that I was up for the Under 23s [Olyroos]. It was very confusing at the time. I felt upset, angry and frustrated" he said.

Durante had signed for the Power on a one season contract from the Olympic Sharks in the off season. His two seasons at Olympic yielded a premiership and a win and a loss in consecutive grand finals. Promising performances in central midfield and defence last season had put him in good stead for national selection.

He had hoped to cement his place in the Olyroos squad to contest for a place in the 2004 Athens Olympic Games football tournament with another impressive season.

"I think I had some chance of playing in the Under 23s. I'm not saying I would of definitely been there, but I would say that I had a decent chance" he said.

Durante was forced to watch his teammates from the sidelines for the top of the table clash with Perth Glory on Sunday afternoon.

He will remain on crutches for the next three months, and may be expected for a

return to the playing field in six to twelve months time.

"The doctor said the operation went well and that I was lucky that it was a clean break. He has inserted a plate along the main bone and I have a thick cast over it at the moment. I'm not sure how long I will have this cast on for" he explained.

"I've been thinking a lot about the incident over the past week and I've realised that nothing can be done about it. It's important to be positive and right now I'm setting short and long term goals for myself. At the club we have good staff, and guys like [strength and conditioning coach] Darren Burgess have really looked after me."

The left sided defender opted to stay clear of a personal clash with Maloney over the incident.

"I'm not really sure what is happening with him yet, but he will front the courts on Monday and that is none of my concern" he said. "I couldn't care less about Maloney right now, I'm just concerned about my life and getting myself better."

The incidents that occurred on the touchline as both Durante and Maloney left the field has also been brought under scrutiny.

As Maloney walked off the pitch having been red carded, sections of the gallery at Marconi Stadium applauded the captain, and the mortified Parramatta coach, Nick Theodorakopoulos, remonstrated with the fans.

Operations manager for the Parramatta Power, Grahame Melrose, supported the coach.

"We agree with Nick [Theodorakopoulos] that no acceptance of the tackle was required. There was a general air of congratulations, and this showed a lack of discipline towards Maloney" he said.

"We are horrified at the extent of the injury and we consider this incident unfortunate to both parties, for Durante and for Maloney, whose reputation will be severely damaged. It certainly hurts the league to look at that tackle and we hope the head body will come up with the correct punishment" he said.

Marconi coach, Jean Paul de Marigny, and Maloney, will appear before the NSL Disciplinary Tribunal (3/9) on charges of unsporting behaviour based on alleged gestures that occurred following the tackle. De Marigny stated that he felt 'disappointed' at suggestions that he encouraged his players to play rough during this fixture.

"They have suggested that I have done the 'high five' with Maloney as he walked off. I find this degrading and a dig on my name, my integrity and my professionalism. You've got to wonder about the ethics of these people, obviously they don't realise what football is about. It is sad that the game has come to this" he said.

"The gesture that I made to Brad Maloney was simply saying 'chin up' and I'll talk to you after the game. I was not saying 'well done'. Before and during each training session, I shake hands with the players as a gesture of unity."

The coach also hit out against the suggestion that the supporters were congratulating Maloney on the tackle.

"This is ludicrous, the supporters were supporting their team and the player [Maloney] was simply acknowledging them."

He also defended the playing style of his team and his captain.

"I've seen the tackle many times on replay. Buggy was running full on, it was too late for him to pull out, and unfortunately it connected. We have contacted Andrew and his family, and we will visit him this week."

"Brad Maloney is a winner, a top professional person who has played at different levels of the game. Most people have the utmost respect for him."

Now we've got to deal with this as a squad, obviously it is not pleasant.

"But the boys have responded well, we are a tight group and this will bring us closer together. We are an intense and competitive squad, and many people are concerned that we will be a threat [to the competition] this season" he said.

The impact of this incident on both clubs is yet to be seen.

Parramatta will be forced to play the remainder of the season without one of their most talented and inspirational defenders, and their depth will be tested as they battle for the championship.

Meanwhile, Marconi may have to deal with an unwanted reputation with three red cards in six matches.

With the loss of Maloney and the creative Alex Brosque on international duty, the team may yet have to rely on their physical presence and new found ability to ground out results.

'JOHNNY WARREN CUP' IN FULL SWING

The 'Johnny Warren Cup' kick-started its proceedings last Sunday afternoon at the newly refurbished St George Stadium.

The four-team tournament is to be an annual event where teams will participate by invitation only.

This year, the teams invited to participate in this inaugural tournament are, Crescent Star SC, Bonnyrigg White Eagles, Rockdale City Suns and of course the hosts, St George Saints.

During the planning stages, St George Soccer Association consulted with Mr Johnny Warren, who is nationally recognised for his outstanding services to the game.

Johnny Warren will be presenting the cup to the winning captain at the conclusion of the final of the tournament. Warren is enthused by the tournament concept.

He says, "For many years, St George Stadium hosted quality tournaments attracting large crowds and providing great entertainment for the fans. For me, it

is a return to my spiritual football home. A home that brings back many fantastic memories at a club that boasted 9 National Team players in a golden era that saw the Socceroos reach their maiden World Cup appearance."

Now 30 years on, my memories are re-kindled with thoughts of the great St George once again re-vitalised and showing leadership and innovation to stage such a tournament.

I was privileged to play for this great club and consider it an honour to have my name associated with this tournament."

In recent times Johnny Warren has been involved in Cancer Awareness programs and is actively working across a multitude of community groups not only raising the awareness of this terrible illness but also raising valuable funds for the fight against cancer. Johnny Warren is a Patron of Honour of the Sydney Cancer Foundation.

As an ex St George player and Socceroo, Johnny Warren has very fond

memories and a proud history as a player of St George.

All four clubs have agreed to make a donation from the gate revenues generated during the tournament.

A formal presentation of this donation will be made by the participating team

Club Presidents and Johnny Warren to the Sydney Cancer Foundation at the half time interval of the tournament final.

The 2003-2004 Soccer NSW Premier League season commences on the 22nd November.

Tournament Schedule

Wednesday November 5th 2003 - Round Two

Game 1:	Rockdale Suns vs. St George	6:30pm
Game 2:	Crescent Star vs. Bonnyrigg White Eagles	8:15pm
Venue:	St George Stadium	

Sunday November 9th 2003 - Round Three

Game 1:	Crescent Star vs. St George	4:00pm
Game 2:	Bonnyrigg White Eagles vs. Rockdale Suns	6:00pm
Venue:	St George Stadium	

Sunday November 16th 2003 - Finals

3rd/4th Play Off:	4:00pm
1st/2nd Play Off:	6:00pm
Venue:	St George Stadium

Good Luck Young Roos (Continued)

The Czech Republic. Australia will play Colombia, Slovakia and South Korea - three teams of different styles, in the space of five days. A friendly with Japan in mid-November will complete the formal preparation of the team.

"The games in Korea and Japan will be used to organise the team shape and find the right players. The players are certainly taking these matches seriously, every game is important. The boys have a good attitude and they want to win every game" Postecoglou said.

The coach also described the opposition his team will face in Group C.

"Everyone knows about



Ange Postecoglou ready for the task at hand with his young U20s squad.

Brazil. Regardless of what level they play at, they are always well prepared with few weaknesses. I've had a look at the Czech Republic on tape and they are a very technical and physical side, while Canada play a similar type of game to the United States" he said.

Postecoglou will be hoping for an impressive start against European and North American opposition, as Brazil loom large in the final group game.

When asked whether he feels any pressure as a result of the disappointing performance of the Joys in the Under 17s World

Cup earlier in the year, Postecoglou said that the Under 20s will be "treated separately".

"This tournament is a fresh start as it is not the same team" he said. "I don't want to waste the experience by worrying about myself. I'll let others make the decisions."

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U16 GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE	29.10.03 & 3.11.03	6-8PM
U14 GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE	30.11.03 & 6.11.03	6-8PM
WSL (FORMERLY OLYMPIC SHARKS)	11.11.03 & 13.11.03 16.11.03	6.30-8PM 5-6.30PM

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Game 5– FA CUP ROUND FIVE (Game TBC in January)

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Marconi Stallions vs Adelaide United



Saturday Night

Marconi Youth vs Adelaide United
Youth League 5.00pm Kick-Off vs QAS
First Grade Kick-Off 7.30pm



Marconi Stadium

Gates Open 4.30pm



Jean Paul De Marigny
(Manager)



Angelo Costanzo



Luke Casserly



Joe Spiteri



Carl Veart



Aurelio Vidmar



John Kosmina
(Manager)

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REMEMBERING '74

By John Tscheppera

When Peter Wilson, Australia's 1974 World Cup captain, told 'Shoot' magazine in England in May of that year that he hoped Australian soccer would be put on the map, was he too hopeful?

Australia was riding the euphoria of fame, glamour, and success at the highest court in the world.

Labour leader Gough Whitlam's campaign slogan as he strove for the 1972 Prime Ministership was 'It's Time!'

It certainly was for him; and it was also for the Australian Soccer

Federation and all the lovers of the 'beautiful game' Down Under.

Whitlam became Prime Minister and was one of the greatest Australian visionaries and statesmen. 'It's Time' was certainly time for Australia to rise to a new level, among other areas, culturally, educationally, socially and in sport.

Remember that it was Whitlam who asked the late Frank Stewart, the then national Minister for Tourism and Recreation, to initiate a study group into the formation of the Australian Institute of Sport, a world first. Rale Rasic was a member of the study group that set the groundwork for the formation of the AIS in Canberra.

Australian soccer believed that it was also time with the emergence of our World Cup qualification; and also the appointment of a National Director of Coaching in Eric Worthington.

Rasic and Worthington set about transforming the horizon.

Our Socceroos qualified for World Cup glory, thus placing us on the world stage, both here and overseas.

Worthington's new National Coaching Scheme, supported by Rothman's of Pall Mall, - a tobacco company, no less -

set the scene for the establishment of a coaching development structure and with it the turn-out of many well qualified coaches. The coaching profession became a respected and valued body.

Together with football popularity and coaching development, surely was our nation to progress?

However, since then - and this is written in the history books - we have struggled to reach another World Cup Finals place. We tried with Englishmen, Scotsmen, Germans, Yugoslavs and Australians at the helm. Nothing seemed to work.

We tried English ideas, South American ideas, nearly every overseas 'you, beautiful' that was going.

Yet, why could nations such as South Korea and the United States of America reach so many Finals?

Even England only reached the 1990 World Cup Finals - and did quite well - since winning the trophy in 1966. Still, no great shakes.

Maybe it needs to be realised that Australia is unique in many respects.

From our Aboriginal ancestry to British colonisation to the present, we were - and still are - the odd one out. Close to our north is Asia and various

Polynesian, Melanesian and Micronesian states are to our east.

We're not half way around the world, we're all the way around; 24 hours flying time from Europe, 14 from USA west coast, and the same from South America and Africa.

We speak predominantly English.

But we have one thing in our favour - we're multi-cultural. We open our arms to all peoples of the world. We share, integrate and, along with our anglophile history, enmesh a uniquely Aussie flavour.

So, is this the formula for football success?

It seems to have been a great component in the 74 Socceroos' one.

Slowly soccer in Australia is realising that its time that changes are to be introduced.

Frank Lowy's newly-formed Australian Soccer Association has seen the light, thanks to hard work by the Crawford Report. Apart from a total revamp of the decadent administration at national level (and soon to be filtered down the tree), a new National Soccer League, a restructuring of the national teams program, giving serious thought to appointing a National Technical Director (Liverpool's respected coach, Gerrard Houllier, was mentioned), and placing value on our players (both those still left here, and those trying to be

enticed to return from overseas) shows that the ASA is serious.

The public, no doubt, also wants change.

Whether we like it or not, our World Cup qualification in 1974 was a national event that is still remembered, and a feat that the country wants still to repeat. Its been done in cricket, rugby union, League, netball, swimming, athletics and tennis among other team and individual sports.

Maybe Whitlam's slogan needs to be updated. Maybe, the Australian Soccer Association, or the 'beautiful game' here in general, can utilise a piece of brilliant marketing. Maybe we can say 'It's time, again!'

The Australian Soccer Association will be an honoured guest at the WC74 Reunion Dinner at the Le Montage Restaurant in Leichhardt on November 13th next, the anniversary of the Socceroos' qualifying victory over South Korea in Hong Kong in 1973.

They are humble enough, unselfish and honoured to be present.

Again, the ASA seems to be setting a new standard.

One ingredient of the Socceroos' famous triumph was that none of them were selfish.

Too many people we see today are only interested in what they can get out of the game.

This is a disgusting approach and shouldn't be allowed to fester further.

The late John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, in his Inauguration Speech in 1961 said, 'And so...ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country'.

The second ingredient was that they were humbled by the honour and experience of such a unique event in world sporting history.

And remember, it is said that wars stop for football!!

Learn what it takes to achieve such a feat.

Ask Bobby Hogg, a valued member of the squad who couldn't go because of injury. He'll travel from 250km outside of Darwin to get to the dinner!

How will we get to the next World Cup Finals?

The Reunion dinner may provide the answers.

In the presence of esteemed 'football media magnate', Les Murray, and guests such as Mario Fenech, surely much 'high-powered' discussion will take place; and for a small fee, you can also put your 'two bob's worth in'!

Many clubs have also shown that they are prepared to honour a page in Australian sporting history at the Reunion by 'tabling' their support.

To be honoured and humbled at being in the presence of down-to-earth heroes, and being a part of Australia's soccer history is value for money, then the future of the game in this country is assured.

Or is it?



The leader of the '74 Roos, skipper Peter Wilson.

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Friday	7th November 2003	- U/12's, U/14's and U/16's	5pm to 7pm
Sunday	9th November 2003	- U/12's, U/14's and U/16's	10am to 12noon
Tuesday	11th November 2003	- U/12's, U/14's and U/16's	5pm to 7pm
Friday	14th November 2003	- U/12's, U/14's and U/16's	5pm to 7pm
Sunday	16th November 2003	- U/12's, U/14's and U/16's	10am to 12noon

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SCHEINFLUG BACK IN BUSINESS



Former Soccerroo coach Les Scheinflug believes this will be the year for the Australians to push for a place in the 2006 World Cup.

By Peter Damalas

The winds of change are currently sweeping through Australian soccer, with effectively every aspect of the code under scrutiny.

The next few months are shaping up as perhaps the most important in the history of soccer in Australia. The appointment of a task force that has the arduous job of reporting back to Australian Soccer Association

chairman, Frank Lowy, regarding the creation of an Australian Premier League, has meant that reform has now become a matter of when, and not if.

And the attendance at Adelaide United's debut in the National Soccer League

should stand as testimony to the potential of the sport in the country. The match between the new club and Brisbane Strikers at Hindmarsh Stadium last Friday night has indicated that people are attracted by the fresh

image of the sport, the vigorous marketing and promotional campaign undertaken, and the 'united' approach which reaches a broad spectrum of the community.

While off field occurrences have dominated discussion throughout the year, with the multiple delays in the implementation of the Crawford Report, and the take over of businessman Frank Lowy, it appears that on field matters are also on the road towards change.

Former Young Soccerroos and Joeys coach, Les Scheinflug, stated in an ABSW exclusive, that "now is the time to develop the coaching in Australia."

Scheinflug is the technical director of Total Football, an organisation that focuses on professional youth management and the development of coaches.

Based at the Athletics Centre at Homebush, Total Football begins today, with two fields set up with a specific goalkeeper training area.

In getting off the ground, the academy have been involved in the NSW State League, sponsoring A.P.I.A. Leichhardt and Bankstown Lions.

The term 'total football' derives from the style of play instituted by the famous Holland teams of the 1974 and 1978 World Cups. The philosophy behind this style of play is that each player should be able to play in a variety of positions, and Scheinflug had adopted this wholistic approach.

He outlined the idea behind this organisation - "to help soccer in general and to help youngsters develop in the matter that they deserve."

"I feel that soccer has gone backwards in this country in the last five years" he said.

The former Soccerroos assistant coach stated that the lack of advancement in coaching has affected the latest generation of young players.

"The coaches department has stood still, we have neglected youth coaching."

There is not enough information and the knowledge of what is available out there is nil.

"When I was a young coach, I was always striving for knowledge and going overseas. The local coaches haven't got these experiences, so I will be personally involved on the park, helping players and coaches improve with formation, for example" Scheinflug said.

He brings with him a wealth of experience, having been involved in the national coaching set up in various ways since 1981, and has had contact with acclaimed international coaches Cesar Menotti, Carlos Bilardo, Berti Vogts and Franz Beckenbauer.

He is one of seven full time coaches.

Scheinflug's picture for the future direction of coaching is a long term one. His ideals are based on both his international and local experiences.

He says that his determination to create a footballing academy comes from the need to correct the perceived problems associated with youth development.

"Parents have complained out of frustration at the incorrect coaching of their children. There is no way to identify talent in the youth league."

Total Football is the only organisation in New South Wales that involves everyone, not just the elite, and we teach the footballing unit, not just the individual. We are coaching Australian teams to play in Australian competitions, but the players belong to their clubs and no contracts are signed" he said.

One of the proposals put forward is to invite club teams and development squads from across the globe, particularly from Asia and South America, using the world class facilities and global

name of Sydney Olympic Park.

New South Wales referees have also benefited from an exchange programme with Italy.

This will be the first time since the 2000 Olympic Games that soccer has appeared at the venue, and Total Football is aiming to prove that the sport is supported by the wider community, in much the same vein as Adelaide

United in South Australia.

There has been a feeling in Australian soccer circles that the sport has had to endure many lost opportunities, and the brief tours of professional Korean club teams and Uruguayan giants, Penarol, is evidence of this, with very little promotion or media exposure.

Scheinflug insists that Australia needs to learn from these teams about the qualities of good players.

"Communication is vital, we need to make sure that our players are made aware of their abilities and their job on the park."

Scheinflug recently completed a seven month stint in charge of Fijian football. In his time there, he put in place a four year programme for women, a coaching course for coaches and arranged a youth league.

While he did attempt to address the problems with discipline and politics, he insists that he was "five years too early" for the island nation.

With his intimate knowledge of Australian and island football, Scheinflug did comment on the status of the confederation.

When he was asked about Oceania's path to the World Cup, Scheinflug replied:

"What would you prefer, to go on a holiday with the money given to you by someone, or with the money that you worked for?"

He concluded that this year is an appropriate time to begin the rebuilding process in Australia.

The ROCKDALE CITY SUNS SOCCER CLUB



Advise that Youth League Trials for 2004

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Under 13s, 14s & 15s — 9.00am

Under 16s, 18s — 11.00am

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SUPER LEAGUE

STANMORE HAWKS 1st Grade Under 20's

TRIALS 2004

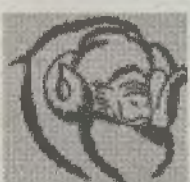
Coaching Staff — Sotos Mavros & John Doyle

TRIALS For Both 1st Grade & Under 20's on Thursdays & Sundays

THURSDAYS 6.30PM Sharp 6/11, 13/11, 20/11, 27/11, 4/12 SUNDAYS 9.00AM Sharp 16/11, 23/11, 7/12

VENUE: Tempe Reserve, Tempe

For More Information Contact: Mavros 0417 653 979 / 9560 8999



MACARTHUR DISTRICT SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION INC.

TRIALS for SUPER LEAGUE 2004

Enquires Wayne Toogood 0403 798 287

U20 & 1st Grade

October 28, 30

7pm start

Coach Washington Gonzalez

TRIALS for Metropolitan & Premier Youth League

Enquires Mark Williams 0439 756 623 (M)

U11: 2/11	— 9.00AM	U12: 2/11	— 11.00AM
U13: 28/10, 4/11	— 6.00PM	U14: 28/10, 4/11	— 7.30PM
U15: 3/11	— 6.00PM	U16: 30/10, 6/11	— 6.00PM
		U18: 30/10, 6/11	— 7.30PM

TRIALS for Womens Super League & Youth League

Enquires David Finaly 0412 628 154 (M)

Super League: To be advised	U21: To be advised
U16: 29/10, 5/11	— 7.00PM
U12: 31/10, 7/11	— 7.00PM

All trials held at

Lynwood Park, Rangers Road, St Helens Park

ARRIVE 30 minutes PRIOR to START



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invites all Soccer players to trial for the Season 2004

Super Youth League

U13 — 7th November

U14 — 4th November

U15 — 5th November

U16 — 6th November

Time: 6-8pm

U11 & U12 — 8th November

Time: 10-12noon

Where: Fraser Park

100 Marrickville Road, Marrickville

For further information please contact George Askaro 0418 4055 68

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Dulwich Hill winner of two grand finals this year, is a true multicultural soccer club and welcomes all who love soccer and are keen to participate.



Where: Steel Park, Marrickville.

Where: U/13's 8.30 — 10.00

U/14's 10.00 — 11.30 • U/15's 11.30 — 1.00

Saturday 8th November

When: U/16's 9.00 — 11.00

U/18's 11.00 — 1.00

Sunday 9th November

ENQUIRIES:

Director of Youth League: Carlos Perestrelo

Phone: 0411 743 948

Youth League Co-Ordinator: Brian Fong

Phone: 0419 255 951



National Soccer League



Adelaide United

0



Sydney United

0

By Andrew Howe

Two blatant misses - one from either team - ensured a scoreless stalemate in front of another impressive crowd at a blustery Hindmarsh Stadium.

After a whirlwind season start, with two wins from its first two games, the new Adelaide team and the near-capacity 14410 audience endured a slight reality check against the mid-table Sydney United.

The visitors could well have returned to Sydney with all three points following Brendan Santalab's one-on-one with Adelaide United goalkeeper David Scarsella late in the match. From 25 metres out Santalab successfully chipped past Scarsella, only to watch the ball bounce just to the side of the goalmouth in what really should have been a match-winner for Sydney United.

The match started in

Adelaide United's favour, and as early as the first minute it was Carl Veart who almost nabbed his fourth goal in three games when he just missed heading in from a corner. At the 20 minute mark another strong header from Lozanovski just went over, and signalled an end to Adelaide's dominance.

Perhaps lifted by the near-sellout crowd, a young Sydney United outfit then outclassed Adelaide until half time. Chances to Franco Parisi (38th minute) and Paul Ivanic (44th) almost put Sydney United in front, while Adelaide were also lucky not to be caught out playing the offside trap on several occasions. Twenty-one year old Scarsella made some quality saves and seems to be growing in confidence with every match.

Soon after the break came Adelaide United's golden opportunity with Liam Reddy in the Sydney United goal caught stranded as

Veart lobbed from 25 meters. It was a open goal, but the striker's shot went just wide much to the annoyance of a vocal yet tense home crowd.

The second half was played out relatively evenly, with Brendan Santalab's frustrating near-miss coming in the 85th minute almost snatching an upset away vic-



Brendan Santalab did well in his first start for the Sydney United since returning from his successful stint in Singapore.

tory. It was Santalab's first appearance for Sydney United in 2003-04 after recently returning from a stint in Singapore.

Perhaps due to the strong wind, the game was marred by many unpressured turnovers (17 from Adelaide United, 15 from Sydney United) and misdirected passes, especially in the first half. In the end chances at goal were a rarity and, quite surprisingly to many, Adelaide United ended the match without getting one shot on target.

It was a stark contrast to the debut home match two weeks previous when the home team had fired a barrage of shots towards goal in a 1-0 win over Brisbane Strikers.

John Kosmina felt his team overplayed the ball too much - allowing a young and fit Sydney United to close in on the Adelaide United attack too often for the Adelaide coach's liking. Kosmina felt that his side was not quite switched on. Home captain Aurelio Vidmar concurred, conceding that the expectations on the suddenly high-profile Adelaide United were enormous and perhaps the pressure of the occasion had got

to the team.

But not to take anything away from Sydney United: a team written off by many at the start of the season revelled in front of the big crowd. After the game coach Grant Lee, with the last-gasp near-miss clearly on his mind, seemed overall con-

tent with his team and praised its high work rate. He gave special mention to a very busy Anthony Doumanis, a midfielder traditionally regarded for his skill rather than workload.

It was the first scoreless NSL draw seen in Adelaide since March 2001.



Adelaide United's Richie Alagich did well for the new NSL side in their nil-all draw against Sydney United last week.



Brisbane Strikers

2



Newcastle United

1

By Glenn Davis

Brisbane Strikers registered its first home win of the season and retained its spot in the top six with a four 2-1 win over Newcastle at Perry Park on Saturday night.

The Strikers, who had drawn its previous two home games with Perth Glory and Sydney Olympic, led 2-nil at the break after dominating the opening period.

However, Newcastle never threw in the towel after the interval and exposed the home side's lack of scoring prowess in the second stanza.

Newcastle got off to a shaky start with a back pass by Mitchell Johnson which nearly resulted in an own goal in the fourth minute.

Two minutes later Brisbane looked set to score when midfielder Steve Fitzsimmons delivered a pass to striker Luke Morley,

who narrowly missed a goal with a spectacular header.

Both Strikers' goals came from mistakes by Newcastle's 16-year-old defender Keegan Wolfenden, who twice gave away possession in his defensive third.

Wolfenden was at fault for the opening goal delivering a poor pass, which ended up on the right side of the Newcastle area.

Strikers' midfielder David Pilic pounced setting up Morley who rounded one defender and watched his shot rebound off both posts before rolling in.

Morley then capitalised on another Wolfenden error just before the interval and unselfishly set up teammate Royce Brownlie with a simple side-foot from close range for a two-goal buffer.

The second half saw a rejuvenated Newcastle have a better share of possession but they couldn't crack the Strikers' defence until the final minute following a



Brisbane tough defender and manager Stuart McLaren showed true leadership in his squads two-one win over Newcastle last Saturday night.

Ryan Griffith's pass to midfielder Peter Tsekenis.

Tsekenis pushed forward and scored with a neat header, which easily beat keeper Jason Keaton.

Strikers' player-coach Stu McLaren was delighted with his midfield's performance and was grateful to finally win at home in front of their small band of loyal supporters.

Newcastle coach Ian Crook gave the Strikers' full credit, saying the Strikers defence was strong throughout the entire game.

While McLaren praised the midfielders' efforts in the first half, he also had some moments of concern with the side's inability to hold possession for long periods.

"We were put under pressure in the second half and the boys didn't adjust quickly enough," McLaren said. "But we got our first win at home, which is great and the three points keep us in the the six," he said.

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For more information: Ring Peter Sarikakis
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National Soccer League

	Parramatta Power	6
	Perth Glory	0

By Stuart Jones

The perfect 45 minutes. Only 2634 people there to see it but on Sunday night Parramatta Power produced a first half attacking display that was perfect.

They put four goals past Perth Glory from their four attempts on goal and put the reigning premiers on the back foot – a position they failed to recover from. In the end it finished 6-0 as Parramatta set about erasing memories of last year's championship play offs when they lost 6-1 in Perth.

It looked very different in the opening minutes when Perth nearly struck an early double blow. Just under thirty seconds in and the normally steady Damien Mori failed to touch into the net a Bobby Despotovski pass, Ahmed Elrich clearing it instead. Then in the 82nd second Matt Horsley had a free header but he tried to flick it and it went wide of the post.

In the fifth minute Mori looked to be one on one with Bolton but Alvin Cecolli flew in and brilliantly shepherded the ball to the keeper.

In the eighth minute Matt Thompson played Ahmed Elrich down the right. Elrich bumped off Scott Miller with ease and cut it back to Ante Milicic who slotted the ball low into the net making it one nil to the home side.

Two minutes later Wayne Shroff played the ball through to Mori once more and he was one on one with Bolton again, the Power custodian saving well once more. In the 23rd minute Elrich nearly scored the own goal of the season as he headed back to Bolton a ball that had not put him under any threat. In the 29th minute another former Glory player in Simon Colosimo held off three players to play a beautifully timed ball to Ahmed Elrich on the right.

Elrich slotted it through to Gumprecht who cut the ball back to John Buonovoglia on the far post and he made it 2-0 to the locals. It was a great

goal with flowing football that would grace any world stage and make headlines.

Perth tried to respond but Mori was off target and within eight minutes of making it 2-0 Parra were up by three. Matt Thompson made room in the centre of the park and the Perth defence all drifted towards Buonovoglia up front. That left Milicic free on the right and Thompson played it to him instead. Milicic turned goalward and slotted the ball home into the far corner with great aplomb.

Not one minute later and Damien Mori was one on one with Bolton again and yet again Bolton saved at the Glory striker's feet. It was to be a big miss for right on half time a Colosimo corner from the right was played along the ground to Elrich at the near post. The youngster back heeled the ball across the face of goal for Milicic to meet it and score, thereby giving him a first half hat trick. 4-0 at half time – Perth's worst defeat in their seven and a bit seasons had seen them con-

cede four and now they had done it in one half.

Two changes at half time for the visitors failed to stem the flow as an Elrich cross four minutes after the break was headed home by Buonovoglia. In the 54th minute Buonovoglia nearly



Hat-trick hero Ante Milicic shown scoring one of his three goals against the Glory.

had his hat trick as he almost swept on a back pass from Horsley to Jason Petkovic. Right on the death Travis Dodd cut back a ball from the byline on the right for Simon Colosimo to fire home a great strike from just outside the box, capping a great day for Parramatta and Perth's biggest loss in their NSL history.

After the match Mitch D'Avray was a gentleman in defeat. "We were second best on the day although they were not six better than us. Ironically enough there were times today we played better than we have all season. Parramatta showed their quality, Andre and Simon (Colosimo) destroyed us."

"All this traveling is catching up with us, the cracks started showing last week. Defensively we were naive, their movement killed us. On his own Damien Mori could have scored five tonight, they took their chances we did not."

Nick Theodoropoulos was obviously pleased with the performance but did not get too carried away with it. "We took all the chances tonight, the first 45 minutes were perfect. There are plenty of games to go so we can not get carried away with ourselves."

the goalkeeper and fell in front of the awaiting Pelikan, who tapped the ball into the back of the net.

With only three goals scored in six matches, Olympic's next objective must be to recruit a powerful striker to partner Bakis, considering the absence of Michael Baird, away on international duty with the Young Socceroos.

Ian Dobson's men moved into counter-attacking mode in the second half as Olympic, to their credit, pushed on in the hope of attaining something from the match.

liantly around two defenders but screwed his shot across the face of goal, to the disbelief of the supporters in the grandstand.

To compound the misery of the Sydneysiders, Pelikan scored an easy second goal late in the first half. Sabljak floated in a high cross from a free kick which deceived



Zenon Caravella (left) shown evading Knights midfielder Andy Vargas for possession of the ball. (Photo by Con Poulos)

Sydney Olympic

Melbourne Knights

By Peter Damalas

Sydney Olympic ended a four match stint at home with another 2-0 loss, this time to the Melbourne Knights.

With both sides on four points at the start of play, the three points were crucial in keeping up with the teams in the top six. As it panned out, the Knights had more experience when it came to putting its chances away, and two opportunist strikes from Anthony Pelikan in the first half proved to be the difference. For all of Olympic's efforts, and they were vastly improved on the past two weeks, they could not breach the solid Melbourne defence. Sydney have now lost three home matches in a row, a worrying statistic as they take on fellow strugglers the Wollongong Wolves away and the Football Kingz at home in the next two weeks. These matches represent hope for the beleaguered team, and they are already shaping up as crucial fixtures in the club's season.

After a gloomy afternoon

that threatened to spoil the match as a spectacle, the sun came out at OKI Jubilee Stadium in time for kick off, and the two teams responded, passing crisply and creating a plethora of chances.

Nick Sabljak responded in kind for the away side with a left foot drive that flew wide of Glen Moss, left hand upright.

The twenty year old goalkeeper made an excellent save from point blank range from Andy Vargas. Pelikan played a square ball across the edge of the penalty area for strike partner Nick Waite to dummy, allowing Vargas with only Moss to beat. He later dived to his right to deny Sabljak.

But with veteran custodian and recent signing, Brett Hughes, watching from the bench for the first time this season, Moss sensed that he needed to impress the coach to maintain his place in the team.

Central midfielder, Elias Augerinos, also in the Olympic squad for the first time this campaign, was desperately unlucky not to put his team in the lead

when his header off a Schirripa free kick came crashing off the crossbar.

These were missed opportunities for the home side, but it marked a significant improvement in terms of link play and interchanging of passes in the attacking third.

Melbourne Knights were also impressive going forward, and caught Olympic's defence flat footed on a number of occasions. Pelikan had put the ball in the back of the net in an off-side position and the goal was ruled out.

There was a slight hint of offside for Pelikan's first goal in the lead in the 20th minute. The twenty one year old responded quickest to a chipped ball into the box and headed into the back of the net. Olympic tried hard to get back into the game before half time. Bakis was more involved in this fixture than he had been in the previous three, and recieved support from Kohler and Caravella.

But the best opportunity of the match fell to Schirripa, who turned bril-

SUTHERLAND SHIRE SHARKS



SUPER LEAGUE Trials Season 2004

November 2003

First Grade

Monday 3rd November 6.30pm sharp

Trials continue every Monday and Wednesday until 26th November 2003

Under 20's:

Tuesday 4th November 6.30pm sharp

Trials continue every Tuesday and Thursday until 27th November, 2003

PLACE:

Seymour Shaw Park, The Boulevard, Miranda

NOTE:

Be there half an hour before your allocated time

For more details regarding trials please contact:

Vic Ellul - 0408 962 314
Paul Smith - 0403 823 820

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MANLY-WARRINGAH DOLPHINS SC NSW SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

Under 18 — Season 2004

Players who are looking to play for the Manly-Warringah Dolphins Under 18 side in 2004 are asked to contact Louis Dimitropoulos on 0408 678 780



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A Sub-Club of Mt Pritchard & District Community Club

STATE LEAGUE TRIALS

at Amalfi Park, Graham Avenue, Lurnea.

The Trials will be held on,
Tuesdays November 11, 18, 25
Thursdays 6, 13, 20
from 6.30pm and on
Sunday 30th November at 10am

For more information please contact

Mrs Lyn Lock 9607 2156 or
Mobile 0414 413 526 or
Mr Greg Ryan 0417 656 658

National Soccer League

	South Melbourne	2
	Marconi Stallions	0

By Alan Clark

Two goals inside seven minutes mid-way through the second-half was enough to give South Melbourne the win in an otherwise tight contest against Marconi Stallions at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday night.

The first was a sickening blow for Stallions as it came from what seemed an innocuous cross by Con Boutsianis that evaded a touch from a player of either side on its way into the net. League top-scorer Vaughan Coveny rose highest at the far post to convert a corner for the second. "I thought we were very good today," said South coach Stuart Munro, who saw his side climb to third position following the victory. "Other than the last ten minutes of the first half, I thought we did ever so well."

"I'm delighted for the players because that was a good solid performance for us, and a good result." It was a disappointing end to a difficult week for Stallions coach Jean-Paul de Marigny, although he was relatively upbeat in the after-match media conference. "I'm disappointed in the result. But I'm not disappointed in the way the boys applied themselves," he said. "Their work-rate is superb - and even when we went (behind) we kept on playing." Nothing had separated the teams in a scoreless first half, although the more promising chances had fallen in South's favour, with Michael Curcija playing a leading role in most. His dipping volley after eleven minutes only just cleared the bar with Stallions' keeper Michael Turnbull stranded. Two minutes later Turnbull made an excellent save from Curcija,

who had volleyed a Vaughan Coveny cross from close-range. Scott Tunbridge followed-up, but could only hit the side-netting. Just after the quarter hour Jeromy Harris and Steve Laurie crashed heads contesting a cross from Brendan Renaud in the first dangerous Stallions' attack. Both had to leave the field for treatment, Harris returning to the fray looking more like a Rugby World Cup forward after requiring a head-bandage to cover a cut to his eyebrow. Marcus Stergiopoulos had a long-range shot midway through the half through a crowd of players and which Con Boutsianis attempted to deflect with a back-heel, but the combined effort went just wide. There had been a spate of bookings, perhaps coloured a little by the adverse publicity given to the incident involving Stallions' captain Brad Maloney the previous

round. Referee Mark Shield was quick to respond to any late or dangerous tackle, and Renaud and Chad Gibson found their names taken on this policy. The sporadic nature of the game continued in the second half until Boutsianis' goal, just after the hour. In what was surely a cross played into space from a position 30 metres out and wide on the right. Tunbridge broke through and stooped to attempt a diving header but failed to make contact. This wrong-footed Turnbull, causing him to lose his footing, and the ball bounced into the net at the far-post. South's second was no fluke and came a mere seven minutes later. Boutsianis took a regulation corner, sending in a high far-post ball where Coveny out-jumped Casserly to head home. "I spoke to the boys at half-time," said de Marigny. "I said if we can keep South at bay for the



first fifteen minutes (we'd be in good shape). South Melbourne is renowned for coming out in the first fifteen, and they scored right on that time, so that was difficult to

swallow." Immediately in response to South's opening goal, de Marigny had readied a double substitution, swapping Gibson and Brice Anabalon for Todd

Brodie and Shane Webb. But it was not until South's second goal that they could take the field. "We just needed some fresh legs," said de Marigny. Nick Carle had been involved in some of Marconi's better moments, but he will rue the opportunity he squandered ten minutes from time to bring the Stallions back into the contest. Joe Spiteri, who had a quiet game by his standards, set Carle free directly in front at the edge of the penalty-area. Carle's shot on the turn went wide. Spiteri himself had a more difficult, but makeable, chance five minutes from time when he was one-on-one with Steve Laurie and heading directly goalwards. Laurie however was not foxed by Spiteri's attempt to step inside, and took the ball off Spiteri's feet. But South ended the stronger, and Tunbridge could have netted a third in the dying seconds, only to see his side foot placed effort crash off the post and back into the arms of Turnbull. "The one good thing I've got in my team is that they will play it right to the very end," said Munro.



South Melbourne veteran Paul Trimboli celebrates his goal with Sam Poutakidis in South's two-nil victory over the Stallions.

	Northern Spirit	3
	Wollongong Wolves	0

By Luke Doherty

The Northern Spirit went one step closer to levelling their lop-sided win loss record, with a 3-0 hammering of the Wollongong Wolves at Pittwater park on Sunday.

A superb hat-trick of goals from Spirit striker Stewart Petrie secured the win in front of 2388 fans.

Petrie's first goal came courtesy of a bullet cross from midfielder Matt Osman 10 minutes before half time. The cross found Petrie lurking at the back post and he headed it past an out stretched Andrew Crews.

The goal took the Spirit into the half time break with a one-nil lead but 20 minutes after the break Petrie was again left un-marked at the back post and a Vuko Tomasevic cross left the striker with little else to do than tap it in for his second.

A left foot volley from the edge of the 18 yard box completed the Scottish born

striker's hat-trick after catching the Wolves back four asleep in the 80th minute.

Petrie, who only scored three goals last season, now has five for the year and in scoring his hat-trick became only the second man to complete the feat in the clubs history and Spirit coach Lawrie McKinna was pleased with how sharp he looked.

"Petrie had three proper chances and he scored three goals," said McKinna.

"I thought he [Petrie] started off slow but he had a great diving header, the second one was a great touch and the third one was a great finish."

Last years coach of the year was also optimistic that the Spirit could turn there season around after picking up maximum points from its last two games.

"This is a run now where we can hopefully pick up some points and it really started last week when we



Scottish and Northern Spirit star bagged a hat-trick in his sides three-nil victory over the hapless Wolves.

won in Melbourne."

It was the Spirit who controlled the flow of possession for the majority of the first half but Wolves would have felt they should have been at least one goal ahead at half time.

The Wolves strike pairing of John Majurovski and Stuart Young proved difficult to contain for the Spirit's make shift defence but in what would have been a frustrating 10 minutes for Wolves coach John Turner, they failed to make it count on the scoreboard.

The pair created 5 genuine chances in front of goal in the first half alone but they weren't able to put the ball in the back of the net and Turner couldn't believe his teams lack of "luck" in front of goal.

"I thought we should have scored a couple in the first half with Majurovski hitting the cross bar," said Turner. "Petrie hits the cross bar and it goes into the back of the net, we hit it and it goes back out the 18 yard line."

"If you get a bit of luck behind you it goes along way and we certainly had none."

Luck or not, Wolves midfielder Nahuel Arrarte should have done better with a chance that would have

levelled the scores at 1 all but he missed an open goal from 5 metres out.

Spirit midfielder John Hutchinson almost marked his 150th NSL appearance with a goal in the 50th minute but he was denied by a great save from Wolves

shot stopper Andrew Crews.

The Spirit now travel too Ericsson Stadium with two wins in a row under their belt to meet the Football Kings while the Wolves take on Sydney Olympic at WIN stadium.



CYC STANMORE HAWKS

will be conducting 2004 TRIALS for
FIRST DIVISION Youth Players in
the following age groups
U13, U14, U15, U16 and U18
Trials will run three consecutive Mondays commencing
Monday 10, 17 & 24 November
Coaching will be over sighted by the Club's Head Coach &
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John Doyle (Former Socceroo Player and Coach)
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TASOS 0417 216 936
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BYE - FOOTBALL KINGZ

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2003-2004

NORTHERN DIVISION ROUND 7

LEAGUE LADDER

	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra Deakin	5	4	1	1	0	14	7	13
AIS	4	3	1	2	0	11	4	10
Brisbane Strikers	5	3	0	2	2	9	7	9
Wollongong Wolves	4	3	0	1	1	5	3	9
Northern Spirit	6	2	2	1	2	5	5	8
Marconi Stallions	7	2	2	0	3	11	12	8
Parramatta Power	5	2	0	1	3	8	9	6
Sydney United	6	2	0	1	4	11	14	6
Newcastle United	5	1	2	0	2	3	4	5
QAS	3	1	1	1	1	7	6	4
Sydney Olympic	5	1	1	1	3	6	10	4
ACTAS	3	0	0	1	3	1	10	0

FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER 2003

ACTAS0	Marconi Stallions3
	(Narvaez 77', Camilleri 79', Del Zio 81')

SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2003

Sydney Olympic1	Canberra Deakin2
(Musumeli 56')	(Caldwell 55' 88')
Brisbane Strikers2	Newcastle United1
(Peltohaka 63', Di Sipio 70')	(Boogaard 77')
QAS5	Sydney United2
(Grossman 44' 75', Smits 67' 87', Hagell 90')	(Urizar 21', Ozbey 40')

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2003

Northern Spirit0	Wollongong Wolves1
	(Nwagazi 30')

MATCH BROUGHT FORWARD FROM RD 16 -
Played on Saturday 1 November 2003

AIS3
(Deegan 6' 86', Celeski 46')

Parramatta Power2
(Hudap 9', Bridge 26')

BYE - AIS

BYE - Parramatta Power

FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2003

Wollongong Wolves Vs Sydney Olympic
Time: 5.00 pm
Venue: WIN Stadium

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2003

Parramatta Power Vs Canberra Deakin
Time: 4.10 pm
Venue: Parramatta Stadium

Marconi Stallions Vs QAS

Time: 4.30pm
Venue: Marconi Stadium

AIS Vs Northern Spirit

Time: 7.00 pm
Venue: AIS Soccer Field

SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2003

Sydney United Vs Brisbane Strikers
Time: 4.00 pm
Venue: Sydney United Sports Centre

DEFERRED MATCH FROM RD 5 - To be played on Friday
7 November 2003

ACTAS Vs Newcastle United

Time: 5.00 pm

Venue: Hawker Oval

BYE - ACTAS

BYE - Newcastle United

SOCCERWOMAN

by Janene Mār

WNSL 2003/04 - ROUND THREE

NSW Sapphires and Queensland Sting have pulled away from the pack with an emphatic six-point lead after just three rounds of the WNSL, both maintaining their perfect win record by a single goal over Adelaide

Sensation and Canberra Eclipse respectively. Victoria Vision and Northern NSW Pride shared the points in a record-breaking 5-5 draw.

A Belinda Dawney first half goal proved sufficient for reigning champions Sting to claim the three points 1-0 over Canberra Eclipse in Canberra on Sunday.

Queensland dominated play in the first half, combining much the better as a team and utilising their pace up front and were unlucky not to go in at the break with a bigger lead. Canberra saw little of the ball and their defence was at times a little shaky. Several half-time positional changes turned the game around for Canberra, enjoying the greater percentage of possession and attacks on goal in the second half, but unable to break through.

Sting came close after just three minutes from the opening whistle, a quick break not cleared by the Canberra defence allowing striker Belinda Dawney to shoot, the ball hitting the side netting. The next best chance fell to the lively Sarah Walsh, unmarked and receiving a rebound off the defence but her snap shot from 14 metres in front scraped the outside of the post.

Three minutes later, Queensland scored the inevitable goal, Walsh providing a long ball in from the right for Dawney to unleash a beautiful first-time strike from 16 metres to beat the outstretching keeper.

A Belinda Pannella second-half hat-trick saw Victoria Vision come back from a two-goal deficit to share the points in an entertaining and dramatic 3-5

draw with Northern NSW Pride in Saturday's match in Newcastle, the final goal scored with a minute remaining.

Vision defender Rachel Lamb rocked a Pride team searching for their first point of the season after just eight minutes, finding the target amidst a goalmouth scramble from a corner kick. On the quarter-hour mark, a minute after losing youngster Elizabeth Kermod to a broken arm, the home side levelled. Katie Gill was the scorer from just inside the 18-yard box after a cutback from the right corner by Jenna Tristram.

Hayley Crawford then equalised 2-2 for Pride in the 33rd minute with a clinical finish to a pinpoint Gill cross.

Four minutes later, Northern turned the tables by taking the lead with a solo effort from Tristram, stealing the ball on the halfway line and racing toward goal and finishing the job with a fine strike under the keeper.

Pride doubled their lead to 4-2 from the penalty spot after a foul on Crawford, captain Amber Neilson converting from the spot. Another two minutes in, Vision's Pannella, a 24-year-old striker in her rookie season, was on the spot to take advantage of a defensive

mix-up in the goalmouth.

Lauren Colthorpe scored for Pride in the 77th, but the visitors weren't giving up the fight and went on to score twice more in an amazing final seven minutes. Pannella struck from outside the 18-yard box and the ball ran past a sea of players before rolling into goal.



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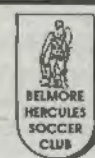
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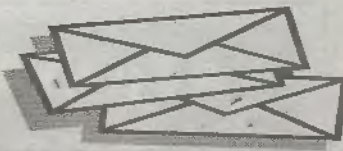
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Letters & Giveaways



ADELAIDE ON THE RIGHT FOOT

Dear Sir,
I was very happy to see Adelaide United make a successful start to their NSL campaign.
This club should be seen as the future of the sport in this country. They conducted an excellent marketing campaign, involving many great sporting identities from South Australia, and did exceptionally well to sell as many season tickets as they did.



This is a wonderful step in the right direction in terms of club management. Adelaide United have created a well integrated atmosphere which includes every member of the community with an interest in the sport, and there is a hell of a lot of them out there.

The team colours look great, and it really does help promote state pride.

The other NSL clubs, with the exception of Perth Glory, need to take note and work towards creating positive vibes amongst supporters and within the wider community.

In other words, clubs need to be taken out onto the streets!

Pieter Ellis,
Adelaide, SA.

CONGRATS ADELAIDE

Dear Sir,
I would like to extend my congratulations to the new Adelaide team.
I do feel that the future of the national competition rests with enthusiastically run clubs such as United, who are progressive and want what is best for the game.
Seeing big crowds back at Hindmarsh Stadium is great, the NSL needs a strong South Australian team. Hopefully, the example set by Adelaide will re-invigorate the one club states into getting behind and supporting their team.

I would love to see an Australian Premier League with well run, well supported teams from the west, south and north.

The traditional clubs should look at Adelaide and attempt to emulate, their community, and that means getting down to grass roots level and giving every youngster who dreams of playing soccer an attainable target, that is, a good domestic competition.

Lets keep the young talent in Australia!
Louisa Arnold.
Glenelg, SA.

ARSENAL BLUES

Dear Sir,
There are some things in the football world that I simply cannot understand.
As a loyal Arsenal supporter, I am baffled by their excellent form in the English Premier League, and their listless performances in Europe.

I simply cannot put my finger on it! They are undefeated at home and playing scintillating football. They have come away from big matches against

Manchester United, Liverpool and Chelsea, completely unscathed, and yet do not put it together against possibly weaker European teams.

While the club has received its fair share of bad press recently, I think that if one looks closely at the past few weeks,



one would see a determined and closely knit club. Martin Keown fist pumping gestures after the Old Trafford game speaks volumes for a club that is determined to step out of the shadows of their richer opponents, and be victorious despite the lack of on-field reinforcement.

However, losing 3-0 at home to a very pedestrian Inter (minus Christian Vieri), and being unable to scrape results against Moscow and Kiev are simply unexplainable.

Robert Connor.
Ashfield, NSW.

STADIUMS HOLD THE KEY

Dear Sir,
Have you ever wondered about the impact of football stadia on the results of any given match?

The thought came across my mind when I was looking at some statistics of the past decade.

The 1991, 1996 and 2003 Champions League Finals were all held in Italy, and were all decided by penalty shoot outs. And not to mention the Italia 90 World Cup, which procured penalty shoot out after penalty shoot out.

What about the Nou Camp's ability to produce completely out of the ordinary results? Consider Manchester United's stoppage time win over Bayern Munich, and Barcelona's 'brilliant one day atrocious the next' results, for example, the 5-0 win over Real Madrid and the 4-0 loss to Dynamo Kiev.

When I look at footage of Turkish or Greek stadiums, where the crowds are right on the edge of the pitch, I think to myself how difficult it must be for the opposing team to concentrate on their game plan.

And the architects of the more beautiful stadia in the world may have the ulterior motive, that they want to completely dazzle and bewilder the opposition off their game!

Food for thought!

Ashley Sen.
Melbourne, VIC.

RECKLESS BRAD

Dear Sir,
I was at the match two weeks ago when I saw the Power take on Marconi and I thought Brad Maloney's tackle did earn more than a red card. The way many people saw it on the terraces was that Maloney had no intention of playing the ball.

This stuff should be outlawed in the game, we don't need it. As a result of this young Andrew Durante will be

gone for almost a year.

Brad is a very experienced player and I know that he would not have done that on purpose but in this issue he was in the wrong and should receive some form of punishment.

This incident though has caused a stir with many soccer followers stating that is our game too rough?

You watch the English Premier League week in week out and tackles fly out everywhere.

Chris Stevens,
Lansvale, NSW.

POSTERS

Dear Sir,

It was such a good feeling reading ABSW last and seeing that a photo of my beloved Greek National Team was seen.

For so long I've been trying to locate a site that had big photos of them and I've yet to stumble across anything.

Where did you get this from? I guess it must be an industry secret hey?

I bought two copies so I've put one in my room and the other on my locker at school. Its good to see that they've finally gained some coverage as in previous years there was nothing in your publication about the Greek league or anything from there.

From memory the last time I saw a poster that had anything Greek was a back page spread on Olympiakos there years ago!

Greek football is certainly on the rise and a number of players are playing their trades in the worlds best leagues so its only just that it gets a mention.

Keep up the good work and keep bring the posters in - a great souvenir to have. Shame about the Ruud spread though - I don't like him especially after what he did against my favourite side Arsenal a few months ago but the photos are of top quality - well done ABSW.

George Stefanidis,
Padstow, NSW.

BAD TASTE

Dear Sir,

I was at the Marconi-Parramatta match last week and I must say that I was absolutely disgusted and appalled at the tackle that left Andrew Durante with a

broken leg.

I consider this to be the height of unsporting behaviour. Maloney clearly led in with his studs up, a sending off offence in its own right, and also refused to pull out of the dangerous challenge when he realised that the defender would clear the ball before him.

He of all players should have realised the danger involved in this challenge and checked himself, as any player with an ounce of self control would have.

Even though Durante was the fast man, the force of the tackle, had not been successful, would have seen the ball move way beyond Maloney's reach and into the goalkeeper's possession.

I do not think that two weeks suspension is enough for this act of madness.

Soccer is not a sport for such butchery, and I think the aggression of the

Marconi captain was too much in this instance.

I took my two children, both boys, to this match, in the hope of steering them away from playing the other football codes, but based on this evidence, I'm not so sure.

Roland McCauley,
Westmead, NSW.



Brad Maloney could be looking towards a longer suspension?

FIFA 2004 MAYHEM

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* A Game With No Boundaries: Go online and take on opponents from anywhere in the country (PlayStation®2 and PC only). An online lobby area where gamers can meet, greet, chat and play head-to-head provides the ultimate interactive experience.

Stay tuned ABSW will be giving out copies of FIFA 2004 on P2 and PC in the next few week's, as part of the FIFA 2004 competition.

PREMIERSHIP BIZARRIO

Nige and Derek here from BananaTV's Premiership Bizarrio. Each week we give you the news and our views from around the grounds of the EPL.

This week saw the start of the Carling Cup. How many names is this Cup going to have? It used to be known as the League Cup in the good old days when the Premier League was called Division 1 and the record transfer fee was 1 mil. The League Cup then started on the track of a multi-personality Cup whose first metamorphosis was to be the Milk Cup, Littlewoods Cup, Rumbelows Cup, and numerous other white goods Cup, before we end up with the piss-pot Carling Cup. A good old mug for ale down the local hoozer.

However, The Boozers Cup has always had a reputation as a muncifield for top-flight clubs. The lower league outfits really get pumped for this one, as they do in the FA Cup. This year has been no exception, with added controversy thrown in, by Leeds psycho striker, Alan 'Chernobyl' Smith. Before we look at Smithy's latest melt-

down, we will keep to the football and check out some surprises.

We go straight to The Ars where the French Connection were totally outplayed by MegaMoney side, Rotherham, and were lucky to get away with a 1-1 draw, but nicked it 9-8 on pens. To be fair to the Ars, even though it grates us to have to be fair, Terry Henry wasn't even on the bench and the only recognisable names were Kanu and Wiltord. The Ars really took this one seriously! It looks like the only cup they could win this season. The Toons miserable season continued when they were humbled 2-1 at home by Premier League rejects, West Brom. Unlike The Ars, The Toon had plenty of names in the team. Sir Uncle Bob is going to have a bunch of naughty boys waiting outside the office for a good old leg slapping after this latest debacle.

Tie of the round was ManU against Lancashire louts, Leeds Utd. This turned out to be a tie where everyone got involved from the police, to the fans, to the managers, to the players. It was a mess. The tumultuous point being another mental

melt-down by psycho striker, Alan 'Chernobyl' Smith. In the last minute of the tie, Smith commits one of his trademark hospital tackle against ManU youngster, Chris Eagles. Whilst ref, Paul Dirkin was writing Smith's name in the book, the psycho picked up a Lucozade bottle that was on the pitch and lobbed it into the crowd



smashing a girl in the head. What was this maniac thinking? It was a home game! Now Smithy is picking on his own fans that pay his wages. Ironically the injured girl turned out to be his friend's sister. Smith is about to get a 3-match ban and several thousand pound fine. When is the FA going to get

serious about this kind of behaviour? Rio is about to get banned for 2 years for forgetting a drug test, guilty or not, how can this compare with assaulting a member of the paying public. When this unfortunate girl left home that evening for a good old night out, the last thing she would have imagined happening was that her fave player would be lobbing a bottle at her head. Smith needs help whether he wants to admit it or not. Nine dead offs in his career, littered with offences such as head-butts and hideous tackles. A 3-match ban to this nutter is a hiatus, a 40 grand fine isn't even a week's wages. The carnage goes on and on. The public can count themselves fortunate that Chernobyl Smith made it in football and kept his lunacy confined to a stadium. What could have happened to this nutter if he was a vagrant?

Back on the Bozza watch. There is never a week goes by where Bosnich hasn't got his fihzog on the front page of every notorious tabloid in the country, even when he is serving a 2 year ban from football. What is Bosnich's latest tabloid trauma; he has put

his nutter girlfriend Sophie Anderton in hospital. This weekend the car wreck of a relationship hit the wall when the pair was rowing and Bozza threatened to throw her out on the street naked. The police were called and Bozza was carted off, hand cuffed, in a paddy wagon. He was questioned until 2 am and then released. His version of events was that she smashed him over the head with a lamp and has the bruises to prove it. She is hotly contesting this, as she left the hospital on crutches. Bozza then invited The Sun reporters into his home to show them the damaged lamp and when asked if they would have ever got married, he bizarrely put on a home made porno of Sophie stripping off and saying how she wanted to marry him and have his kids. Even more bizarre, he played the tape again and again for the reporters so they got a good eyeful. We certainly haven't seen the last of the big Aussie.

Just when you think nothing can get any more Bizarrio, another week goes by. You can catch all the latest bollocks by tuning your computer into www.bananatv.com

Victorian Chronicles



By Brendan Davis

PROFESSOR FAILS FIRST TERM

The disintegration of the once mighty Leeds United is saddening.

With little fanfare, Leeds United, under the its new boss Professor John McKenzie, released their financial results to the London Stock Exchange this week - it's a horror story.

But the trading losses don't themselves reveal the extent of the mismanagement at the EPL club that boasts such extensive Australian links.

They are about AUD\$200,000,000 in debt, losing more money, third bottom in the league and this week were bundled out of the Carling Cup by Manchester United's reserve team. They are losing an average of AUD \$1,000,000 every week of the year, and that's after the spending cuts.

Of greatest concern though is the prevailing management, their attitude and lack of vision.

The good professor responded with a great one liner "they lived the dream while we inherited the night mare" which was his thinly veiled attack on his predecessor, Peter Risedale.

Risedale was extravagant, under his guidance spending exceeded income, management was mediocre while long term planning was poor. But McKenzie is using Risedale as an excuse for his boards own failings. And Risedale was answerable to a board, some of whom continue work-

ing with the professor.

McKenzie proudly boasted he has "slashed" spending at Leeds by £20m annually.

You don't need a Masters of Economics to work out the current loss is £39m so cutting £20m from this will leave a £19m shortfall. How will this be addressed?

And the companies net assets have fallen over the year from £109m to £60m.

Players sold off include the likes of Rio Ferdinand, Jonathan Woodgate, Harry Kewell and Robbie Fowler.

Selling off your best players and recruiting little will inhibit your onfield performance, impacting on your crowds, merchandising revenue, TV revenue and prize-money, leading to reduced turnovers and increased losses.

Sadly, the good professor has failed to identify anything positive on the horizon for Leeds fans. The club is performing poorly on the pitch, more great players are likely to leave the club in January and the only hope is a Saudi Prince, a long time Leeds fan who has contributed £5m, might be prepared to contribute a little more.

But, he might not!

Another real concern is the shock and horror McKenzie expressed over the player financing Leeds utilised through third party financial houses as well as the securitisation of future gate receipts and television revenue.

This was hardly concealed by the previous administration. Infact this paper first wrote about the inherent risks associated with this strategy in August 2003. My source was nothing more than the notes attaching to the Leeds United annual report to the London Stock Exchange and other publicly available data.

ABSW has written of the associated risks repeatedly over the last 14 months. Surely the professor was well aware of the implications of this high risk strategy, maybe a subscription to ABSW should be on his shopping list.

McKenzie tried to justify the

financing techniques suggesting everyone did at, we are one of at least five clubs including Everton that did this.

The heard mentality defence is naive - and as the good professor well knows, if used sensibly to provide income producing assets (ie: increased seating) such financial structuring can provide sustainable long term financial income streams for a club. Any of the professors first year finance students could have worked out the flawed internal rates of return on the Leeds investment.

Professor fails to publicly acknowledge Leeds sold forward future income to cover current years income shortfalls so the club is now a financial basket case.

Peter Risedale is not solely responsible. He was answerable to his board of directors who had to authorise the complex financial transactions such as the deal with Celtic over Mark Viduka. 18 months ago, the transfer market was vibrant so that deal looked a winner - Viduka could have been sold for £50m. But Leeds didn't sell and the market moved against them.

Leeds are now likely to face administration whether they are relegated or not.

Professor McKenzie is about to move into a non executive role as former Chelsea chief executive Trevor Birch is taking over the poison chalice as Leeds Chief Executive.

Birch left Chelsea with a massive debt. Chelsea were saved by Roman Abramovich. Without the Russians oil millions Chelsea would have remained heavily in debt as opposed to spending like no other club anywhere in the world has ever been able to spend. Birch was not retained by Abramovich.

McKenzie confidently boasted this week "we have taken £20m of costs out of the business and have rebuilt the management team and as such it is now possible to begin to look forward with some confidence." Hopefully some more positive news will flow from Leeds because the chairman moving to a non executive

role combined with the recruitment of Birch with his chequered past is a long corner kick away from "rebuilding the management team".

And critically, one hopes McKenzie is not relinquishing his executive position due to his apparent time constraints.

For the sake of the football community, the integrity of the FA and the good of the code, Leeds must not be allowed to "do a Leicester", they can't be allowed to enter administration, write off their debts then return to the Premiership with an unfair advantage over the clubs practicing prudent financial management - no debt.

Any team entering administration should be forced to drop down at least one division - otherwise the crowd mentality may prevail, everyone may take this soft option.

WORRIED SUITS

The Qantas lounge at Sydney airport has been the venue of many high profile meetings, discussions and anxious moments.

On Wednesday afternoon the directors of the various NSL Clubs had reason to share this anxiety, they had just finished their NSL briefing on the proposals for next season.

Few club directors were comfortable.

Even the NSL's most powerful clubs face anxious moments, they need to restructure, significantly, if they want to retain a license next year.

And most realise how far away from compliance they are.

South Melbourne, to their credit, acknowledged the situation in a press release, the others are addressing this in house.

This shake up will benefit the code nationally, it will ensure a more dynamic and attractive National League, it will upset many, infuriate others, some of us will see our clubs fail.

But it will be worth the pain. So long as the administration can also meet the same high standards being set for the participant clubs.

COLOSIMO WANTS SUCCESS

By Brendan Davis

Simon Colosimo wants to make a second grand final appearance but with his new club Parramatta Power.

After experiences in England with Manchester City and a trial at Stoke City, and in Belgium with Racing Genk and Antwerp, and last year playing in Perth Glory's grand final win and winning man of the match you'll think he's done enough, well no he hasn't.

"I want to make the grand final this year, and push for a national shirt again, play good football and increase the crowds", said the former Carlton star.

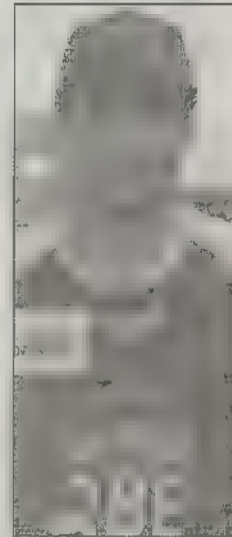
Colosimo and his team mates at Parramatta want to feel the same feeling he did at the end of the NSL season in 2002/2003, the feeling of victory, "yes the clubs expectations for this year are to go all the way to the grand final."

The roaming defensive midfielder is in his first season at Parramatta Power, and is enjoying playing some good soccer. This is the first time he has lived in Sydney as he has come from Melbourne then went straight on to play in Europe. But he has adapted pretty good to the rush and busy lifestyle of Sydney, "well at first I didn't think I would like it to tell you the truth, but now I like it, and I have fitted in well."

Colosimo's expectations for this year are quite clear, to make the grand final and some one who will be helping him and his team mates is his coach Nick Theodorakopoulos.

"He's a good coach because he keeps you on your toes and brings out the best in you," says Colosimo.

Looking back on his experiences in England and Belgium, Colosimo felt mixed emotions and found it



Sterling defender Simon Colosimo wants more success with new club Parramatta Power.

hard to establish himself in the first team, "My experience overseas were of mixed emotions, they were enjoyable and not so enjoyable, but it gave me more experience as a player and a good learning curve."

Parramatta Power and Colosimo disappointed after what happened against Marconi in round 6 with that Brad Maloney tackle on Andrew Durante which left the promising defender with a broken tibia and fibula.

Colosimo who has been in a similar situation to Durante when then Manchester United's Andy Cole caught Colosimo with his studs in a horrendous tackle while on tour with the Soccerex's in 1999, "its very disappointing for Andrew, and you don't want to see those sorts of things in soccer," says Colosimo.

Parramatta Power will face the Melbourne Knights at home this weekend and are looking good in the top half of the table.

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To find out more about Danielle or to join her as a registered Green and Gold Army fan head to ggarmy.com



We will have more competitions for both current members and those out there that are still to join Australia's national soccer supporters group.

Old Socceroos games on tape



Have you got some classic Socceroos games on tape? Why not hit the ggarmy.com and share them with fellow members we often get requests for old games and are working with relevant organizations for an official back catalogue. In the mean time why not hit the forum and hunt down that elusive game to add to your collection with fellow fans!

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Are you bored at work? Then head to our site and download a great new penalty shoot out contest to keep you sane between the monotony of a day at work courtesy of pepsi.com



MORE FUN & GAMES ARE COMING SOON SO STAY TUNED

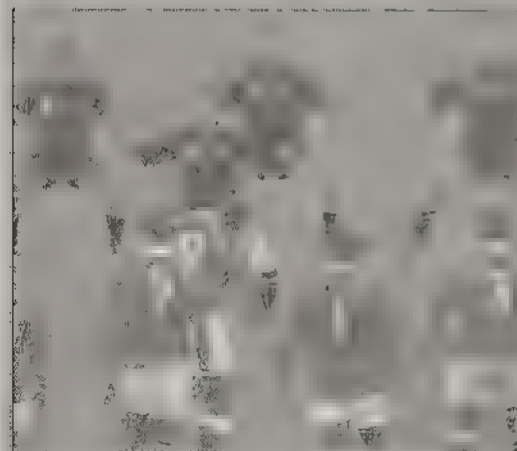
Note to the ASA - Copy the Rugby

By Mark van Aken

If you spin the current state of Australian soccer enough you can argue that it's in good shape. Junior numbers are the biggest in the country, ABS figures pointing to it dwarfing the other football codes in terms of participation.

Foreign based stars like Harry Kewell are involved in big advertising campaigns. Bresciano and the crew chasing not far behind.

Of course this ignores the fact that our national body was dissolved a fortnight ago as it was stone motherless broke. It looks past a broken national league with no TV sponsorship or crowds. It ignores a national program that has sent two teams to World Cups this year for a combined tally of 1 point.



Rugby Madness could be copied by the round ball game here in Australia?

This being said there is something happening nation wide at the minute that should keep us warm at night, and that is the Rugby World Cup (RWC). The RWC isn't the FIFA World Cup, the Olympics or even the Goodwill Games. However after very humble beginnings only 16 years ago, it has become a relevant member of the global major events calendar. The ARU are labelling it the biggest sporting event of 2003. No mean feat considering that the first tournament that we hosted with our friends across the Tasman in 1987 was almost a non event.

It is staggering to think that in that first tournament only a decade and a half ago the host nation Australia played France in a semi final at Concord Oval in front of 12,000 people. Let's rewind the tape there shall we. The Wallabies, now the most fantastic commodity in Aussie sport - the team that elite multi-nationals

showed with sponsorship dollars and sells out matches quicker than a Beatles concert. A played at Concord Oval in front of 17,000 people. Concord, now Waratahs Stadium, is now even too big for the Waratahs (the NSW state team) themselves let alone the Wallabies.

So what has this got to do with soccer I hear you ask? Their story gives us hope. Rugby was a shadow of its current self only 6 years back. Since the arrival of John O'Neill as Chief Executive in 1995 the game has quite literally gone from rags to riches. While it was ridden on the wave of a global reform in the game that saw its transition to professionalism, only through clever strategies and astute execution of these said strategies was the ARU turned around not only their marquee product, the Wallabies, but also the game itself. As soccer people we should be very excited by this very excited deed.

In 1995 Rugby was in far worse shape than the world game is today. As was written at the start of this article we have some big positives in the game. Rugby's playing numbers were dismal and by comparison to soccer they still are. The game was bankrupt. According to the ARU they lost \$800,000 in '95 and then a staggering \$3 million in 1996. Does this sound familiar?

The \$15 million in grants from the ASC to the ASA over the next 3 years gives soccer a huge kick start on its road to prominence. Much of this money has been earmarked for business development and planning. In a mid year address reported in the Australian Financial Review (AFR) O'Neill quipped, "Strategy is easy, execution is unbelievably difficult." If execution was difficult in Rugby then only god knows how hard it will be in our game but the point is where there is will, there is a way.

The ASA can learn a lot from the team at the ARU. Just over half a decade ago it had no national code of any relevance. Super 12 has filled this void. Its playing numbers were poor - they have since nearly doubled from 89,000 to over 150,000. It had only superficial corporate support - the Wallabies are now the Sports Marketing and Sponsorship yardstick in Australian sport. The Wallabies had low to medium profiles in Sydney and Brisbane and were as likely to raise interest else where as Charlie Dempsey is to see a dentist.

Rugby might be the game of the big end of town, but the big end markets to rest of the town - soccer inhabits this region. According to the AFR more than 1.25 million people play soccer in some form from the NSL to a lock in the park. If a relatively obscure

game like I think can transform itself then soccer can too.

The ASA must work night and day to provide a strong and relevant national program including a maximum number of high profile fixtures. A base in England makes sense but games need to be played here as well. And games here have to be of a certain calibre of opposition or we may as well not bother and we can't not bother. Rugby didn't gain any prominence in Melbourne when it brought in the Italian Rugby team to play at Olympic Park. Only when it brought its top draw card in the form of the

Bledisloe Cup did numbers swell and interest rise. One suspects if the All Blacks visit Melbourne for a match then the Socceroos will have the Australian sporting public's complete and undivided attention.

Rugby deliberately takes the Wallabies to Perth and Melbourne as well as the heartland because it's the most strategic way to grow the game. The Socceroos have the power to do the same and then some. So to the ASA I say head down to the ARU, steal the blue print and as our friends in Beaverton, Oregon would say - Just do it.

From Iraq With Love

Strange EX-Perth Glory coach Bernd Stange is on a mission for world peace with the Iraq national team which arrives in Western Australia next month to play an Australian XI.

Launching the "World Peace Game" today, Stange said he hoped the event would help Australia realise Iraq is surviving after the United States-led invasion - but still needs help.

"The game was my idea, because it is very important to bring some good news from Iraq after years of embargo and war," German-born Stange told ABC radio.

"That is why I contacted friends in Germany and Australia to get the support, because there is nothing left in Iraq, no soccer balls, no equipment, no goals, no nets, no competition, no nothing. We have to start with zero."

As well as the game at Joondalup on November 14, which will feature former Socceroo Robbie Slater playing for the Australian XI, the Iraqis will hold coaching clinics for local youngsters.

Stange was appointed Iraq coach three months before US troops entered the country to topple Saddam Hussein's regime.

Stange withdrew to Europe, returning when the war ended, and has since led Iraq to qualification for the Asian Cup.

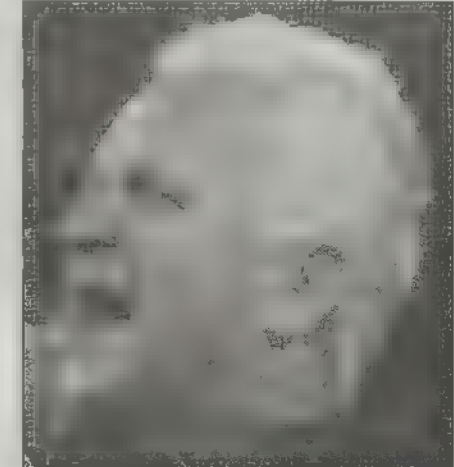
"Straight after the war I was asked by the Iraqi football association to come back and continue my contract to bring the team to the World Cup 2006 in Germany, and try to take the team to the Asian Cup in China next year - the biggest soccer event in Asia," Stange said.

"That is why I am so happy to bring a team to over to Perth to show the world we are still surviving."

Their preparation for a tilt at the World Cup will begin with the tour to WA.

"We want people to know that we need their support - everyone is struggling and there is no safety, we cannot have games in Baghdad," Stange said.

"I am separated and isolated there, I need bodyguards to move - my family is frightened sometimes. But I have to continue to show the world that I am not there for money or other reasons."



Iraqi coach Bernd Stange has brought his side to Western Australia as part of its World Cup preparations for the 2006 World Cup.

Ted Simmons Sheds His Vision on the NSL

Sunday Night Soccer, airing weekly at 10:00 pm on 98.5 FM, took time out with National Soccer League specialist Ted Simmons to discuss the NSL, past, present and future.

By Joseph Carlucci

SNS - In 1977 the National Soccer League kicked-off with a grand vision. Could you take us through this vision for the NSL...

(TS)The whole idea of a National Soccer League started long before that (1977). It was an idea dominant in the minds of many of the Australian Soccer people, going as far back as the late 1950s. The first official mentioning of the idea arrived in 1965, when the only soccer newspaper of the day, *SOCCER WORLD*, the green paper, had a front page heading National League Predicted.

The clubs themselves were very interested in such a proposal and funnily enough, the first genuine meeting held was chaired by Alex Pongrass and a young chap by a young chap, Frank Lowy. Between them they organised the first meeting, laid down the idea for discussion with the representatives that turned up and from this there were further meetings.

The only sticking problem really was the Melbourne clubs that were a little wary about the idea. Sydney, Brisbane, Wollongong, Adelaide, Newcastle were all interested and willing to go ahead with a National competition. Melbourne eventually came in after the formation of the Australian Soccer Federation.

The ASF had stepped in stating to the clubs that this was a go-er, that there would be no more talking and that it was to kick-off in 1977, eleven years after the first words were thrown around.

The ASF, led by Sir Arthur George, was formed to investigate, enquire, discuss and came up with a plan for the National League as it existed at the time.

SNS - The public perception of the NSL today is that something has gone

wrong in these past 28 years. What do you think has gone wrong, if anything at all, in this time?

(TS)People say it (NSL) has gone wrong but pardon me, isn't it still going? When things go wrong either they break and you discard them, or you replace them with something better. The only unfortunate point has been with the fiddling of the NSL in the way it has been run over the twenty-eight years.

Whether they've gone wrong with forming conferences, not having relegation and promotion, and hence a second division is up to the real experts, but the league is still there. If people can say that the league has gone wrong, how come we have produced more than one hundred players now overseas in the top clubs and earning top money?

Where do Harry Kewell, Mark Viduka, Aurelio Vidmar, Mark Bosnich, Charlie Yankos, Frank Farina, Robbie Slater, Stan Lazaridis and so on, actually come from? They certainly could not come from an area that is not doing well. They must have learnt their trade before going away.

In Australia, we (soccer) were the first football code to institute a National League in Australia. The others are doing it now, but we were the ones to set the standard.

Simply, the fact that the League is still going, still attracting a percentage of spectators is a good indication that they must be going right in some way.

My belief is that if we could ever get a fair and equitable amount of publicity from the media, as is the case with other the other codes, we might see a vast difference in attendance figures, and better respect from the sports editors.

SNS - What is your assessment on this current season thus far, firstly on how it has started on the field, the confusion

with the re-arrangement of match fixtures after the draw was finalised, and finally, what can we expect for the rest of the season?

(TS)I was very impressed with the standard of the Parramatta Power in their first matches. Their short passing, on-touch game was reminiscent of the better days we've seen in the NSL.

Some of the other teams haven't yet reached that standard. We are at the beginning of the season, and it takes time to get things organised. The teams will find their feet on the park, and the same will happen off it. The late advent of the Adelaide team obviously gave problems to the NSL, and

rather wisely they decided to postpone the first four matches for Adelaide, until they got their act together and organize their team.

The bringing forward of rounds becomes necessary because of other factors which were unknown when the draw was made. You just have to be ready for any eventuality that comes up, and sometimes you don't have much choice, you just have to do it. And that is what has happened this season.

SNS - A committee of inquiry into the NSL has been announced by Frank Lowy, (TASK FORCE), including former

Socceroo Captains Charlie Yankos and Johnny Warren. What would you like to see this inquiry propose for a future NSL?

(TS)I'm most delighted to hear that Johnny Warren and Charlie Yankos are on the committee. Too many times in the past committees have been formed by "would-be-politicians". People who have their own axes to grind, their own little barrows to push and the last thing they think of is the game itself and the people involved.

When you look at an inquiry, in most cases, the only people that are never put onto an inquiry are players or former players and, if I may dare say so, members of the media. We (the media) rarely get an invitation to take part in any inquiry, and possibly we know just as much if not more about what goes on than the people who actually sit on the committees.

Both Yankos and Warren, experienced and intelligent, two former Socceroo Captains that know what the game is and what the game needs. I would like to see them sit down with the others and look at the structure of the NSL, look and determine whether we need to go into a fully professional set-up, whether only the top, financially, clubs should take part in the competition, whether we should have a relegation/promotion arrangement.

I'd like to see the people on the inquiry to find a means to bring back some of our top players to make the NSL attractive, to give the supporters some heroes.

This is something that we don't have at the moment. You can ask anyone on the street to name a star NSL player and they would not be able to answer you. Ask the same question about the Aussies abroad, Harry Kewell and Mark Viduka. They know the names straight away.

We need some of these big names back in our National competition.



Ted Simmons (Right) shown with Dutch great Johan Cruyff has been regarded as one of the most influential media men in the Australian soccer fraternity.

ROEBECK GRANTED OBSERVER STATUS ON FIFA EXECUTIVE



Acting President of the Oceania Football Confederation Mr Tautulu Roebek.

The Acting President of the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC), Mr Tautulu Roebek, has been granted observer status on the FIFA executive committee replacing former president, Basil Scarsella.

The decision was made in Doha, Qatar prior to the FIFA extraordinary congress on 19-20 October 2003.

In his new function, Mr Roebek will attend future FIFA executive committee meetings alongside the OFC delegate to the FIFA Executive Committee, cur-

rently Mr Ahongalu Fusimalohi of Tonga.

Returning from Doha last week, Mr Roebek said he was elated with his appointment and was pleased with the outcome of a meeting between himself and the FIFA president, Joseph S. Blatter, where he took the opportunity to outline key areas the OFC will be focussing its efforts in the months ahead.

"It was a fruitful meeting and to be acknowledged in this manner was recognition of our commitment to move forward and bring stability to the region," explained

Mr Roebek.

"Our confederation has identified areas of focus, especially in the area of youth development where priority must be given, and I hope to make a difference in my new role."

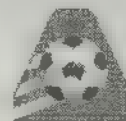
The Samoan-born Roebek led an OFC delegation which also comprised Australian Soccer Association representative, Mr Michael Thompson, making a presentation to the Bureau for the FIFA World Cup 2006 on proposed qualifying paths for Oceania.

While a final decision was post-

poned till December in Frankfurt, Germany, where the World Cup Organising Committee and FIFA executive committee would next meet, Mr Roebek remained positive.

"The outcome may not have gone our way in Doha, but a final decision is still pending," he said.

"Until then, we will be reviewing our proposal with FIFA and hope to reach an amicable solution that reflects fair play for all."



GLORY ANNOUNCE NEW NAME

Members Equity Stadium will be the home of Perth Glory following the announcement of a three-and-a-half-year deal with the financial institution to secure the naming rights to the new venue.

The stadium will also provide a purpose-built arena for other rectangular sports and will be a major Western Australian home for cultural and social events.

Until now Members Equity has remained one of the best kept secrets in the Australian financial services industry, however the new stadium sponsorship combined with a major branding campaign, (to commence in January), is expected to raise their profile and lead to increased awareness amongst the Australian public.

Perth Glory Chief Executive Officer Jeff Dennis said he was delighted with the partnership, which is worth over half a million dollars.

"This arrangement will help ensure

Western Australians have a professionally run, state of the art, boutique venue which will attract events of great cultural and economic benefit to the State, as well as providing a fitting and permanent home for one of the State's most successful and well-supported sporting organisations".



Members Equity is a company with great integrity and an enormous amount of respect. It was important to us that this fantastic new stadium should bear the name of a respected organisation.

"We are delighted with this announcement," said Mr Dennis.

Members Equity also shares the delight.

Mr Anthony Wamsteker, CEO of Members Equity said he was excited by this sponsorship opportunity, a first of this kind for the bank.

"Perth Glory, as the major tenant of the Members Equity Stadium is a community-focused, member-oriented and progressive organisation. These are qualities both companies have in common.

With Members Equity Stadium as its home base, Perth Glory is set to play a strong role in leading soccer to the front ranks of Australian sport and Members Equity looks forward to that.

Members Equity Stadium is also set to provide a great venue for other social and cultural events and over time will play a major role in the life of many Western Australians.

As an organisation with its origins and culture firmly linked to the Australian community, this is a natural linkage for Members Equity."

Kingz loom For Wooden Spoon?

New Zealand's sole representative side in the National League the Football Kingz are in somewhat of a difficult situation at the moment.

The Kiwi side currently sit at the foot of the table with no points recorded from its initial five matches in the National League.

Coach Ken Dugdale has sounded a warning to his players that their performances must pick up and results must be seen especially at home in their luxurious Ericsson Stadium.

Their problems haven't been helped in the past two weeks after their Round six

clash against fellow strugglers the Wollongong Wolves was cancelled due to the unavailability of WIN Stadium used by the Rugby Union World Cup.

January 19th 2004 as been the re-scheduled date for this match.

Last week also saw the club play out its bye meaning Dugdale's men have had a two-week break - not a good thing for momentum.

During their time off the club did announce that it had yet agreed to partner another club in Europe.

The Kingz announced the signing of a new partnership with SFK Lyn,

which participates in the Norwegian Tippeligaen (Premier League). The objective is to further enhance the football, coaching and player development for both parties.

This agreement has been made possible through the efforts of Ken Dugdale following his recent visit. Says Ken "The arrangement is a positive step in the right direction for the future of the club. Lyn are an old and well established club in Oslo, currently playing in the UEFA Cup after finishing 3rd in the Premier League last year."

Through the partnership, Lyn will loan players to the Football Kingz and vice versa. Espen Schjerven is the first player loaned under this agreement in terms of which the Football Kingz are responsible for his travel and accommodation.

The agreement also provides for coaching exchanges, scouting opportunities and personal development for the coaches involved.

Peter Cox, Football Kingz General Manager says "This is another great example how strong relationships within the football family can provide positive benefits for all parties. We are delighted to have Espen join the team and we hope his time spent here will be invaluable in

setting up his future professional career."

This is their second partnership this season after agreeing to a Chelsea deal at the start of the year - the club and Australian soccer is however waiting for these guest players rumored to be at the club from the start of the league.

The Kingz finished tenth last season after recording six wins ending up on twenty-four points, one more than the eventual wooden spooners the Wolves.

New Zealand football was riding on a high this past year after their national side competed in the Confederations Cup in France earlier this season.

After being established in the NSL in '99, no success has been seen at the club but there have been some talented players that have gone through the Kingz ranks.

One player the club is surely missing is Chilean playmaker Patricio Almendra.

His silky skills have been sorely missed by the club.

Many National League pundits have put down that either the Kingz or the Wolves will be fighting for that bottom spot, Dugdale's men start their assault in getting out of the dole drums this week when they play the Spirit on Kiwi soil

MALONEY TO FACE THE MUSIC?

MARCONI Stallions player Brad Maloney and coach Jean Paul De Marigny will appear before the National Soccer League Disciplinary Tribunal last Monday following a controversial last round loss to Parramatta Power. (Due to deadline reasons, ABSW could not publish the final outcome of the incident however a full report will be in the forthcoming edition).

Maloney has already been suspended for three matches after being sent off for a tackle which left Power defender Andrew Durante in hospital with a badly broken leg.

He copped a two-match ban for the red card and another game for "an instance of serious foul play or dangerous tackle".

But Maloney must front the tribunal to learn if there will be any additional penalty for the red card offence.

He and De Marigny have also been charged for unsporting behaviour following "alleged gestures that occurred as Maloney departed the playing arena".

Durante is expected to be out for 9-12 months after undergoing surgery yesterday on a broken tibia and fibula halfway up his shin suffered from the tackle by Maloney, who was immediately sent off by referee Perry Mur.

Durante will first spend 10 days in hospital before beginning his long recovery.

The tribunal hearing will be held at the Australian Soccer Association office here on Monday.

"We are absolutely devastated for Andrew and his family," said Power coach Nick Theodorakopoulos.

"It has snapped his leg in half and he will be out of the game for 12 months.

"I have no problem with teams trying to



Brad Maloney was under the spotlight last Monday evening after his send off against the Power two-weeks ago.

play the game hard but the line was crossed into dangerous play and Andrew has suffered. And, trying to defend the tackle is even more disgraceful."

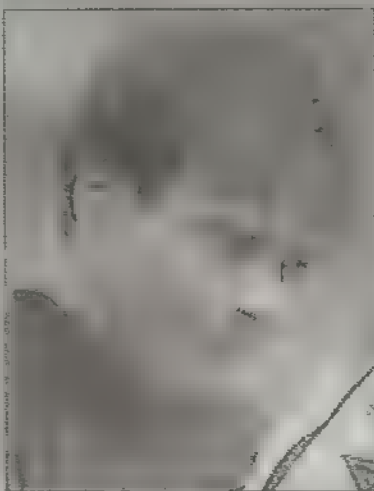
"I thought we played very well and our players did well to keep their emotions in check on the field following the (Durante) incident," Theodorakopoulos said.

"The team is starting to play methodical football when the situation requires and that is just as pleasing as the attacking football we are also playing at times."

Bozza Arrested

FORMER Soccerroo Mark Bosnich was arrested after an alleged assault on his ex-girlfriend Sophie Anderton, it emerged last Thursday evening.

The ex-Chelsea goalkeeper, 31, was detained following an incident in Knightsbridge, west London, last night.



Mark Bosnich has fallen in trouble once more.

Underwear model Anderton, 26, was taken to hospital suffering bruising and later discharged.

Scotland Yard said a 31-year-old man was arrested last night in connection with an allegation of an assault on a woman in what appeared to be a domestic incident.

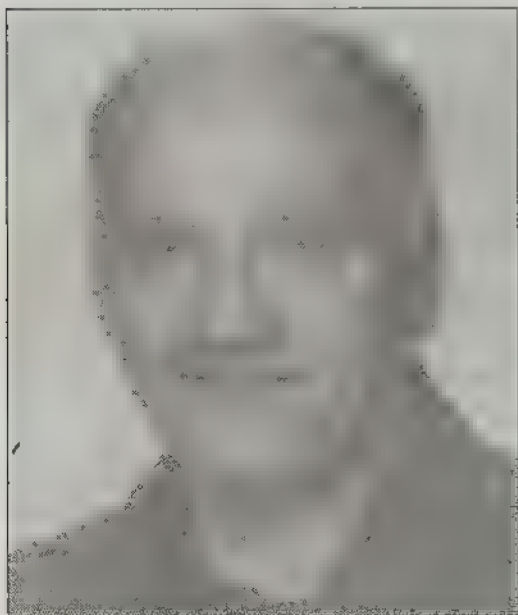
He was taken to Notting Hill police station where he was released on bail and is due to return to police on December 4.

Australian Bosnich, the former Aston Villa and Manchester United goalkeeper, was treated for depression last year after being suspended from Chelsea for failing a drugs test.

Bosnich last week was under speculation that he could don the Western Australian state team jersey but negotiations fell through on the last stage making his comeback a long way off.

It is not known what Bosnich will do now after this incident but has only added to the list of his bad habits that he has collected over the years.

A few English Premier League clubs were said to be keen on signing Bosnich but it is not known after this incident what their reactions are or, the former Soccerroo keeper



Ken Dugdale: Kingz coach hoping to take the side off bottom place.



National Soccer League

After Round 7

After Round 7	TOTAL							PTS	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	BYE	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
PARRAMATTA POWER	7	4	2	0	0	15	3	14	3	2	1	0	10	1	3	2	1	0	5	2
PERTH GLORY	6	4	1	1	1	13	10	13	1	1	0	0	3	0	5	3	1	1	10	10
SOUTH MELBOURNE	6	3	2	1	1	10	2	11	3	2	0	1	6	2	3	1	2	0	4	0
BRISBANE STRIKERS	6	3	2	1	1	7	4	11	3	1	2	0	3	2	3	2	0	1	4	2
MARCONI STALLIONS	7	3	2	2	0	10	9	11	4	2	1	1	6	5	3	1	1	1	4	4
NEWCASTLE UTD	8	3	2	3	0	12	13	11	4	2	1	1	7	5	3	1	1	2	5	8
NORTHERN SPIRIT	7	3	0	4	0	14	12	9	4	2	0	2	11	8	3	1	0	2	3	4
SYDNEY UNITED	6	2	2	2	1	3	4	8	3	1	1	1	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	1
ADELAIDE UNITED	3	2	1	0	1	4	2	7	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	2
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	6	2	1	3	0	6	8	7	3	0	1	2	2	4	3	2	0	1	4	4
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	6	1	1	4	0	3	11	4	4	1	0	3	2	6	2	0	1	1	1	5
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	6	1	0	5	1	3	13	5	2	0	0	2	0	5	4	1	0	3	3	8
FOOTBALL KINGZ	5	0	0	5	1	5	13	1	3	0	0	3	3	8	2	0	0	2	2	6

BRISBANE STRIKERS 2
(L Morley 36', R Brownlie 45')

NEWCASTLE UNITED 1
(P Tsekenis 90')

Referee: James Lewis. Crowd: 2,715. Venue: Perry Park

Teams: **BRISBANE STRIKERS:** Kearton, Dodd, Stefanutto, McCloughan, McLaren, Grierson, Fitzsimmons, Brownlie, Pilic (Brain 75'), Moon, Morley (Rose 87').
Subs Not Used: Webber, Higgins (gk).
NEWCASTLE UNITED: Perosh, A Griffiths, Thomas, Owens, R Griffiths, Johnson, Tsekenis, Blagojevic (Libbesson 75'), Wolfenden (Mitchell 58'), Masi, Brown.
Subs Not Used: Wilson, Kennedy (gk).
Cautions: A Griffiths (NU) 28'

ADELAIDE UNITED 0
SYDNEY UNITED 0

Referee: Angelo Nardi. Crowd: 14,413. Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium.

Teams: **ADELAIDE UNITED:** Scarsella, Alagich, Rees, Goulding, Valkanis, Aloisi, Veart (Sanc 82'), Vidmar, Lozanovski, Demourtzidis, Kemp (Pellegri 75').
Subs Not Used: Terminello, Ba(gk).
SYDNEY UNITED: Reddy, Hakti, Cunico, Vrkic, Huxley, Parisi (Zmire 79'), Collina, Ivanic (B Santalab 60'), Rudan, Doumanis, Filipovic.
Subs Not Used: Bosnar, Necevski (gk).
Cautions: G Lozanovski (AU) 76', M Cunico (SU) 28', B Santalab (SU) 63', M Rudan (SU) 72'.

NORTHERN SPIRIT 3
(S Petrie 35', 64', 80')
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 0

Referee: Eddie Lennie. Crowd: 2,388. Venue: Pittwater Park

Teams: **NORTHERN SPIRIT:** Henderson, Watts, O'Sullivan, Tomasevic, Ferguson, Macallister (Kwasnik 83'), Hutchinson, Groves (Baveas 84'), Petrie, Osman (Maler 87'), Hunter.
Subs Not Used: Page (gk).
WOLLONGONG WOLVES: Crews, Dragas, Timpano, Hughes (DeGiovanniello 87'), Hawrysiuk, Lyons (Austin 70'), Arrarte, Young, Majurovski, Cummins (Andrews 87'), Blake.
Subs Not Used: Nil
Cautions: Nil

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2
(C Boutislanis 62', V Coveny 62')
MARCONI STALLIONS 0

Referee: Mark Shedd. Crowd: 5,500. Venue: Bob Jane Stadium
Teams: **SOUTH MELBOURNE:** Jekovic, Osman, Panopoulos, Kovacevic, Coveny, Boutislanis, Stergiopoulos, Laune, Curcija, Trnabic 82', Poulakis (F Brode).
Subs Not Used: Becica, Sakas, (gk).
MARCONI STALLIONS: Jekovic, Cosenza, Casserly, Last, Gibson, Spiter, Harris (Wick 69'), Laune, Renaud (Thwaite 77'), Anabalon (Brode 69').
Subs Not Used: Aogde (gk).
Cautions: M Stergiopoulos (SM) 27', M Panopoulos (SM) 53', Osman (SM) 84', E Anabalon (MS) 27', B Renaud (MS) 30', C Gibson (MS) 38'.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2
(A Pelikan 19', 41')

Referee: Simon Micallef. Crowd: 2,593. Venue: OKI Jubilee Stadium.

Teams: **SYDNEY OLYMPIC:** Moss, Souris, Kohler, Juric, Schirripa (Nikas 70'), Fyfe, Cardozo, Bakis (Mendes 74'), Augerinos (Karlovic 82'), Ishida, Caravella.
Subs Not Used: Hughes (gk).
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: John, Zilic, R Vargas, Kovacic, Sabljak (Fa'arodo 62'), Razov, Erdogan, Leijer, A Vargas, Pelikan (Oksuz 87'), Waite.
Subs Not Used: Batinovic, Hrehoresin (gk).
Cautions: J Bakis (SO) 27', A Kovacic (MK) 31'.

PARRAMATTA POWER 6
(A Milicic 8', 37', 44', J Buonavoglia 29', 49', S Colosimo 90')
PERTH GLORY 0

Referee: Matthew Breeze. Crowd: 2,639. Venue: Parramatta Stadium.

Teams: **PARRAMATTA POWER:** Bolton, Ceccoli, Colosimo, Beauchamp, Thompson (Zorbas 57'), Dodd, Gumprecht, Milicic (Rech 72'), Sobczyk, Buonavoglia (Pantelis 80'), Elrich.
Subs Not Used: Vukovic (gk).
PERTH GLORY: Petkovic, Horsley, Hassell (Caceres 46'), Murphy, Srhoj (Bingley 75'), Miller, Despotovski, Byrnes, Pondeljak, Mori, Coyne (Mrdja 46').
Subs Not Used: Matassa (gk).
Cautions: W Srhoj (PG) 51'.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Without doubt this week's National League player of the week went to Power ace marksman Ante Milicic who bagged a hat-trick against the Perth Glory in their six-nil romp over last year's Champions. Milicic absolutely annihilated the Glory defence - enough said.

Round 8

Fri 7-11-03

Wollongong Wolves vs Sydney Olympic
Sat 8-11-03

Football Kingz vs Northern Spirit
Parramatta Power vs Melbourne Knights
Marconi Stallions vs Adelaide United
Sun 9-11-03

Perth Glory vs South Melbourne
Sydney United vs Brisbane Strikers
Newcastle United - Bye

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Name	Club	Total
COVENY Vaughan	Sth Melbourne	6
MOR, Damian	Perth Glory	5
MILICIC Ante	Parramatta Power	5
PELIKAN Anthony	Melbourne Knights	5
PETRIE Stewart	Northern Spirit	5
DOLD Travis	Parramatta Power	4
All on 3 goals - John Buonavoglia, Dylan Macallister, Brad Maloney, Luke Morley, Harry Ngata, Tom Pondeljak, Carl Veart, Jobe Wheelhouse.		

BYE - FOOTBALL KINGZ



Superstar Profile #4

Name: Alessandro Nesta

D.O.B: 19/3/76

Nationality: Italian

City of Birth: Rome - Italy

Weight: 79kg

Height: 1.87

Team: AC Milan





Superstar

Name: Francesco Totti
D.O.B: 27/9/76
Nationality: Italian
City of Birth: Rome - Italy
Weight: 78kg
Height: 1.80
Team: AS Roma

from the dressing sheds

by Mark Stavroulakis



LET'S NOT FORGET THE REST

After going on air last week on Sydney's 98.5 FM, a specific topic was spoken about between myself, and both Russo and Carlucci about the lack of coverage shown on Australian players playing their trades overseas apart from England.

It's come to the attention of many soccer followers in this country that the English Premier League has obviously been classed as THE league to watch – a rightly so, the league itself is exciting, entertaining and always a pleasure to watch.

By all means I am in no way taking a dig at the English game nor am I taking a stab at our Australian stars Kewell, Viduka, Schwarzer and Co, what I'm trying to state is that other Aussie stars playing in the Italian, Spanish, German, Dutch, French, Greek leagues should also get some mention as well.

It was a shame that a few weeks back one of Australia's best talents Marco Bresciano bagged a double for Parma in their away win to Lazio and nothing was shown on any of the commercial stations apart from the usual soccer station SBS.

When say Kewell or Viduka score in any match, win or lose, they certainly get a mention, but the others well, their left in the abyss.

It be good to get some coverage shown on our many other stars as we do produce quality and its not just the normal trio!

THE STALLIONS-POWER AFTERMATH

Brad Maloney's red card and Andrew Durante suffering a broken leg seemed to have caught the attention of many Australian sports lovers this past week.

Its sad how bad incidents have surfaced itself on commercial television. We soccer followers starve for LIVE National League coverage and get nothing but a week which saw a bad incident got a reply over and over again on Channel 10's Sports Tonight last Monday evening.

The game itself did produce high drama and tension but the obvious talking point was whether Maloney deserved his marching orders or not?

Many on-lookers at Marconi Stadium felt that Maloney's send-off was just however the home fans certainly thought otherwise.

The former Power midfielder was given a standing ovation by the home-crowd after receiving a reported 'high-five' from coach JP after the player saw red.

Whether these incidents were true or not, it really points to the question of sportsmanship.

Knowing both Maloney and JP's experience in the National League I certainly have my doubts on what was stated above.

Whichever way you take it, soccer followers will always have a different opinion from each other.

Power officials were seething after the match when news filtered through that 'Dura' broke his leg in two spots and immediately asked for a reply of the matter at the ASA Tribunal last Monday evening.

Both Nick Theo and JP had some interesting words to say to each other during the game but 'as it always happens', both kissed and made up after the game.

Coach Nick Theo certainly knows what young Durante is going through as his career was cut to a premature end when he broke his leg three times.

Parramatta Power player Peter Zorbas explained that once the incident had occurred, the whole Power bench were at loggerheads with Maloney.

"When we heard the crowd cheering and seeing a few actions that did not go down well the Power bench, we all couldn't believe what was going on after 'Dura' broke his leg. The guy was in so much pain and seeing all this happen with our very own eyes was disturbing".

There were two conclusions to this incident that has left Durante sidelined for up to 12 months.

*Some people have argued that it was not Maloney's fault and that the force of Durante's attempted clearance was met in the defence of Brad protecting himself from the clearance. The impact of Durante's clearance was met upon with

a launching Maloney that resulted in the Power player somersaulting and landing awkwardly.

*The case against Maloney has it that the Stallions player lunged at Durante in a malicious manner with no attempt of playing the ball resulting in the ugly incident.

Durante actually spoke on this issue on Channel 10's Sports Tonight and stated that no player in the National League would come out and break someone's leg which in this case meant that he thought Maloney's tackle was by no means meant in any malice however the situation has gone to the tribunal.

The outcome sits with the ASA tribunal committee who did reach a verdict last night but due to deadline reasons ABSW could not publish the final result.

This is not the first time the 21-year-old has been to hospital. The former Olympic Sharks stopper was shot with a rifle dislodging a plastic pellet just below his chest four years ago during trials for the then Sydney Olympic Colts side at Steel Park in Marrickville.

Unfortunately whatever the outcome is, the disturbing news is that 'Dura' will be out of action for quite a long time, so if a punishment is reach, what difference would that make for the young stopper?

A question must be raised though on this topic – should the Power claim any form of compensation?

Simon Colosimo's broken leg at the hands of the then Manchester United striker Andy Cole sparked an uproar between Aussie club Carlton and the English giants.

Although nothing was seen from this matter, it did make the main headlines across the country!

CUSTODIAN BLUES AT OLYMPIC

Sydney Olympic have said 'Good-Bye' to goal-keeper Peco Trajcevski after only six rounds due to personal reasons it was stated in the media last week.

The former Rockdale Suns custodian did not start the season in the best of ways after producing a number of howlers during their first six starts.

It all went pear-shaped for Peco after his last match against the Stallions when his two mistakes cost Olympic three valuable points against the Marconi Stallions.

It was rumoured that after the game, Trajcevski left immediately after the final whistle and was said to have been spat on and abused by the Olympic crowd however after confirming with the club these incidents did not take place.

Peco is said to have flown to Melbourne for personal reasons and will not return to Olympic.

The club has therefore put pen to paper to former Olympic reserve keeper Brett Hughes to a one-year deal.

Hughes will join youth keeper Glen Moss who had a good debut against the Perth Glory two weeks ago pulling off a string of fine saves.

The 20-year-old Kiwi international will look towards gaining a permanent place in the squad but will have Hughes as his competition for Olympic's number one spot.

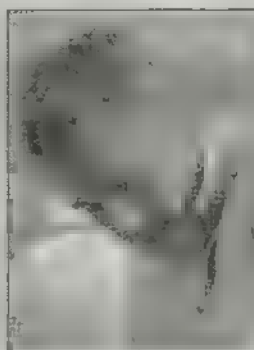
Peter Papanikitas' side have suffered through the year after the club lost top class keeper Clint Bolton to Parramatta Power this season.

Probably the biggest loss for the club, its been highly evident that the side has felt the pain of living life without 'Bolts'.

TRAJA-PACKER AND HALPS AT...

Its been reported to ABSW that former Olympic players Kris Trajanovski, Andrew Packer and Troy Halpin have all spoken to Blues coach Peter Papanikitas about possibly being recruited for this year's squad.

The transfer window re-opens in January and we could see a few players leave Olympic with the inclusion of the trio mentioned above.



Glen Moss: 20-year-old Kiwi international will fight for the keeper's spot at Olympic.

GLORY COULD GO IRAQI?

Iraq coach Bernd Stange returned to Perth with an early Christmas present for former club, Perth Glory.

Stange is promoting this month's Iraq tour in West Australia and says Glory should take a close look at his captain, Mhamed Ali. Energie Cottbus and Unterhaching in Germany are keen to speak with Mhamed, but Stange has recommended he try to win a contract with the Glory.

"His technical skills are fantastic and he is also a very hard worker," Stange told the West

Australian. Glory coach Mich d'Avray said, "If he's an exceptional player we will see what we can do."

"I don't know if there's money in the budget but if he's a special player we will look at the options."

PETROVSKI SEEKS AUSSIE RETURN

Former Wollongong Wolves gun-striker Sasho Petrovski could well end up playing for a National League club either in January or in the new-look APL next season.

The current Viborg striker has stated to close friends that he is ready to return 'down under', after having spent three seasons in the Danish first division.

Having been capped by the Roos once, Petrovski looks certain to return to Oz after his contract expires at the end of the Danish season.

It was rumoured that the Power were chasing Petrovski at the start of this season but the club even at its current money spending status could not afford the fee put through by Sasho.

Since his move to Viborg, Petrovski has bagged a handful of goals for the club and has even generated a fan-base – not bad for the ex-Bankstown City Lions attacker. How his former club the Wollongong Wolves would love to him now!

photooftheweek



STOP PRESS: RADIO 98.5

Sydney ABSW. Readers, for all the latest news and results on the National League and abroad, tune into 98.5 FM every Sunday evening's at 10PM for your weekly dose of football.

led by ABSW's Italian and National League correspondent Joe Russo, 98.5's Italian correspondent Joseph Carlucci, English Premier League buff Stuart Jones and also ABSW Editor Mark Stavroulakis – opinions from these soccer experts have and will be sorted over live on air – Tune in to the real soccer

7,000 Watch Sapphires Win

NSW Sapphires

2

Adelaide Sensation

1

by Janene Mar

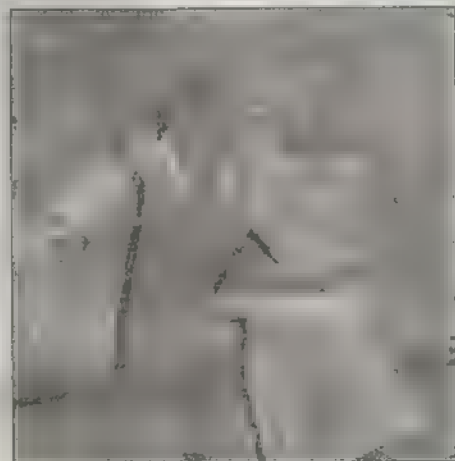
At Adelaide's Hindmarsh Stadium in Sunday's doubleheader with men's NSL side Adelaide United, a half-time crowd of around 4,000 and approaching 7,000 by the end saw NSW Sapphires defeat Adelaide Sensation 2-1.

Sensation were boosted by the return of international defender Dianne Alagich from injury, whilst Michelle Carney lined up for NSW after missing last week's game through a knee problem.

In an action-packed entertaining first half, the two attack-minded sides delivered the goods to the spectators, many new to women's football. Adelaide were sharp and keen and created several dangerous chances. The Sapphires also looked willing and able whenever in sight of goal. After the break, Sensation paid the price for their missed chances, as a fit NSW took control of proceedings for the final half-hour and scored the winner.

NSW took the lead in the 14th minute, a cross

from Sally Shipard finished in magnificent style by Kylie Ledbrook with a curler into the top right corner of goal from just outside the 18-yard box. Adelaide's



Sapphires striker Michelle Carney (left)

speedy front line soon after created several chances, Vicki Balomenos and Lisa De Vanna both falling victim to goalkeeper Cassandra Kell in one-on-one situations.

Ledbrook had another chance for NSW but shot wide, but shortly after, Adelaide equalised. A neat build up involving Collette McCallum and Marie Spagnoletti sent the ball in to De Vanna who beat one opponent and sent in the cross. Balomenos slid in before her marker to get her foot to the ball and score, the first goal to be conceded by NSW this season.

Two minutes later, De Vanna shot wide for Sensation with just the keeper to beat, and shortly after, NSW's Carney was thwarted with a great saving tackle by defender Amy Shigrov.

A Catherine Cannuli goal for NSW was disallowed five minutes after resumption on an offside ruling. De Vanna weaved her magic for the home side but with no reward, twice beating two defenders enroute to goal within the next eleven minutes, but brought down on the first attempt, and next her shot saved.

As Adelaide then started to tire, NSW stepped up in search of the three points. Their efforts bore fruit in the 65th minute, Cannuli on the receiving end of a long ball. The striker controlled the bouncing ball, shrugged off a defender and slotted home. Cannuli came close again with a minute remaining but was stopped by a fine tackle by Stacey Day.



Young Matilda Kylie Ledbrook smashed home a shot from outside the box against Adelaide Sensation

Da Nang City Football Club (Vietnamese National League) is staying at Valentine Sports Park from Saturday Nov 1 - Tuesday Nov 11.

Game Schedule Tuesday 4th Nov - Marconi @ Marconi Stadium - Kick-Off 6:30pm. Thursday 6th Nov - Penrith Panthers @ VSP - Kick-Off 6:00pm (First Grade) 8:00pm (Grade 20), Friday 7th Nov - Bankstown @ Jensen Park - Kick-Off 6:00pm (First Grade) 8:00pm (Grade 20)

NSW SAPPHIRE 2: Kylie Ledbrook 14m Catherine Cannuli 65m defeated ADELAIDE SENSATION 1 (Vicki Balomenos 29m) at Hindmarsh Stadium Adelaide

Sensation: Wkws: May Alagich Burgess Shigrov (Day 80) Slater (Walsh 63) Stocco Spagnoletti (Wson 67) McCallum Balomenos (Papageorgiou 72) De Vanna

Sapphires: Kell Davison Brogan (Todd 46) Gilbert Baynev Shpard Rockall Ledbrook Carney (Holcombe 68) Burgess (Hilder 86) Cannuli

NEW BOYS FIND IT TOUGH

Sydney Crescent Star

0

Rockdale City Suns

3

by Paul Goodwin

The Johnny Warren Cup kicked off under leaden skies at St George Stadium in front of a decent crowd, boosted by a plug on the afternoon's SBS World Game programme, with four attractive Premier League teams in action in the opening day of the round-robin tournament.

In weather more indicative of the winter Super League, from which they had recently been promoted, Sydney Crescent Star were first to parade, facing Rockdale City Suns, themselves the second-newest kids on the block.

Rain had fallen in the area earlier in the day and showers greeted spectators arriving early for this one, but spirits would not be dampened and even the lure of no fewer than three NSL games in Sydney on the same day, including one just down the road at Kogarah, could not keep the keeners away.

The old stadium is looking a picture, after hard work behind the scenes by Manny Spanoudakis and his associates from the St George club and Association.

A revamped scoreboard, clean, new perimeter fences and a re-turfed pitch, the first obvious signs of a new brush having swept the historic stadium clean.

The game did kick off late, but by that stage the

rain had given way to bright sunshine.

Tony Sekulic had the ball in the Crescent Star net seven minutes in, but Andrew Kay's flag was already up for offside.

But the Suns did open the scoring in the 12th minute, when Steve Bozinovski's smart cross from the right byline was headed home at the far post by the unmarked Ante Moric.

Crescent Star's Anthony Hartshorn stung the hands of Peter Trajceviski with a booming shot from 30 yards in the 18th minute, and that was a good indication of the western Sydney side's attacking threat.

Rockdale, however, had other ideas. Just two minutes later Ante Moric once again found himself free in the box after a defender had tried to dribble his way out of trouble. Moric made the most of his chance to make it 2-0 with a crisp shot.

Crescent Star was defending grimly against a Rockdale onslaught.

Similarly, Daniel Kukucka put his own shot just wide of the target minutes later for Rockdale.

Hakan Sevgin could only find the side-netting in the 29th, after getting past the last defence as the newcomers showed a continuing willingness to go forward.

A terrible mistake by Steve Tolios, soon after,

however, presented the ball to Harry James who had the simple task of beating the keeper after drawing him out again from his line in the 45th minute and Crescent Star found themselves 3-0 down at the break.

Michael Cindric nodded over from point-blank range, moments after the restart, for Crescent Star.

The second half deteriorated as both sides experimented with new players and used their quota of substitutions. Rockdale ran out easy and deserved winners at the finish.



Bonnyrigg defender Mark D'Alessandro: See page 25 for 'Warren Cup' spotlight match

Suns coach Bill Petrovski was very satisfied with his team's efforts.

"It was only a trial game really, of course, but I was more than happy with all my players, especially in the first half," he said.

On this showing, Rockdale have recruited well and steadied things down nicely for a very stable season.

Petrovski though is not looking beyond a mid table finish at this stage.

"It's not an easy league and we want to finish as high as we can," he explained. But no doubt he will be looking at a role in the Finals' series like every other coach.

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS Peter Trajceviski Joe Moric Tony J. 64 Nick Orlic Richard Piesse Ben De Ghan (Goce Trposki 64 Tony Sekulic Ante Moric Daniel Kukucka (Ma Bideau 46 Steve Bozinovski (Robert Todoroski 46) Steve Dimitrievski Harry James (Spase Na dosk 71 Subs not used: Daniel Parnas (RCK), Safir Yildiz Coach: Bill Petrovski

SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR Steve Tolios (Thomas Guernio 46) Hasan Ali Kozal Unal Ogmen (Simon Turner 80) Michael Cindric Daniel W. Loughby (Erlin Eiverin 71) Shane Hammond (Nathan Rivera 67) Terry Atsas Yavuz Ekinci Anthony Hartshorn Hakan Sevgin Huseyin Nizam (Ivo de Jesus 46) Subs not used: Nil Coach: Yasin Ozdenak

Referee: Nick Asargiotis Assistant Referees: Andrew Kay and Leo Romero Yellow Cards: Rockdale Nil, Sydney Crescent Star, Yavuz Ekinci 81



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PENRITH PANTHERS

Could This Be The Panthers' Year?

by Paul Goodwin

Each season since joining the Premier League the Penrith Panthers have made improvement, and they vow that this one will be no different.

If the new signings the club has made are any indication then it should indeed be a bright summer for them.

This will be the Penrith club's fifteenth year in NSW senior football and it holds great promise.

Since assuming the mantle of representing the Penrith community, following the demise of the NSL club of the same name a few years earlier, the Panthers have made steady strides until they worked their way into the top flight through promotions and a lot of hard work.

They do see this year as a particularly challenging one, as they will be mixing their senior commitments with their new joint relationship with the local Nepean Association in the Youth and Metropolitan Leagues.

Penrith Panthers Soccer Club have hung onto senior coach Tony Rassmussen, who takes charge of the unit for his third season, and the big man has brought in ex-first grade player and captain, Bob Casserly, as his assistant, following the retirement of player/coach Ossie El Ali at the end of last summer.

Also missing from the Panthers' coaching staff of course is Greg McGriskin who has had to stand down from the role due to his new appointment at Soccer NSW.

In McGriskin's place comes Don Campbell, moving up from Assistant of the Under 19s, to become Under 20's coach and Campbell's new assistant will be Danny Hinton, who will start his migration from player to coach during the 2003/2004 campaign.

The introduction of Casserly and Hinton into the coaching ranks shows the Club's intent to provide youth with its opportunity, and to formalise an on-going path within the club for its senior playing staff.

While new to the coaching lark, both Casserly and Hinton bring to the squad a wealth of playing experience both within the Panthers and outside.

These two coaches will be an asset to the Panthers

While Hinton will continue to play, his priority is now making the move into coaching and player development.

The major recruits for Penrith Panthers this summer are the very versatile Jason Connolly, who moves across from Fairfield Bulls after spending some of the winter with Sutherland Sharks, and Peter Bennett who has just come back from Singapore after a successful spell at Geylang United under Scott O'Donnell.

Bennett joined the Panthers at the start of the 2002/2003 season, but after receiving a very good offer to play in Singapore, the Panthers granted Bennett a release. Bennett, with a wealth of experience at higher levels will be a great recruit for the 2003/2004 season.

Tony Rassmussen is very happy with the other recruits who do add significant depth to his squad in experience and options.

Malcolm Meliak has moved in from Parramatta Eagles, and his former team mate at Melita Stadium, Adam Anderson, has also made the switch and should prosper in a team that can do with some more punch up front.

Roger Galayini is another attacking-minded player who will add depth to the squad after transferring across from Blacktown City where he was a fringe player capable of making first grade very soon. Now he gets his chance.

Galayini is still an Under 20 player, and a player that Penrith has been targeting for a number of years. An opportunity came about to get Roger this season, and Penrith were quick to get him on board. He is seen as very much part of the main squad.

One of the most exciting players in the First Division for the last few seasons has been left sided attacker Alan Wawi who featured in the 2002 title winning Wanderers Cedars side and was with that club again last season. He'll prove a huge asset and is always good to watch in action.

In addition Michael Dowling has also returned from Apia-Leichhardt where he was planning to be a member of the Tigers' Under 19 side last term.

Dowling was at Penrith in 2001/2002, but was enticed over to A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers at the start of last season. After a great Australian Championship in Perth prior to the 2002/2003 season, he broke his leg in

one of the final matches.

The injury and subsequent golden staff infection basically eliminated 2002/2003. Dowling came back to Penrith for a shot at First Grade, and he is seriously being groomed for this level.

Kurt Van Arkels and Tim Johnson have also shown up well in pre-season.

Van Arkels has been a Penrith player for a couple of years and his game has matured significantly to now be in a position to truly challenge Chad Taylor as the main Panthers' goal custodian. Tony Rassmussen has been very impressed with Kurt's earlier season form.

Johnson is another player who has been with Penrith for a couple of years and each of those he has matured and developed.

After a winter season with Springwood he has come back stronger and ready for an opportunity in the top side. This is a level that coach Tony Rassmussen sees is achievable and well within reach in the near future.

Rassmussen is also looking forward to the return of Benny Wright, who is expected to make his way back to full fitness after Christmas.

With these recruits added to the existing squad, led by captain Luke O'Connell, 2002/2003 Player of the Year Danny Wells and 2002/2003 Players' Player Daniel McCann, Rassmussen is looking to move his outfit up the competition ladder and challenge for a Finals' berth.

He is very happy with the way that the new recruits have fitted into the unit, both from a playing and social perspective.

Rassmussen feels that he has been able to form a strong unit that continues to promote youth, but which has the added experience that the unit has lacked in pressure periods.

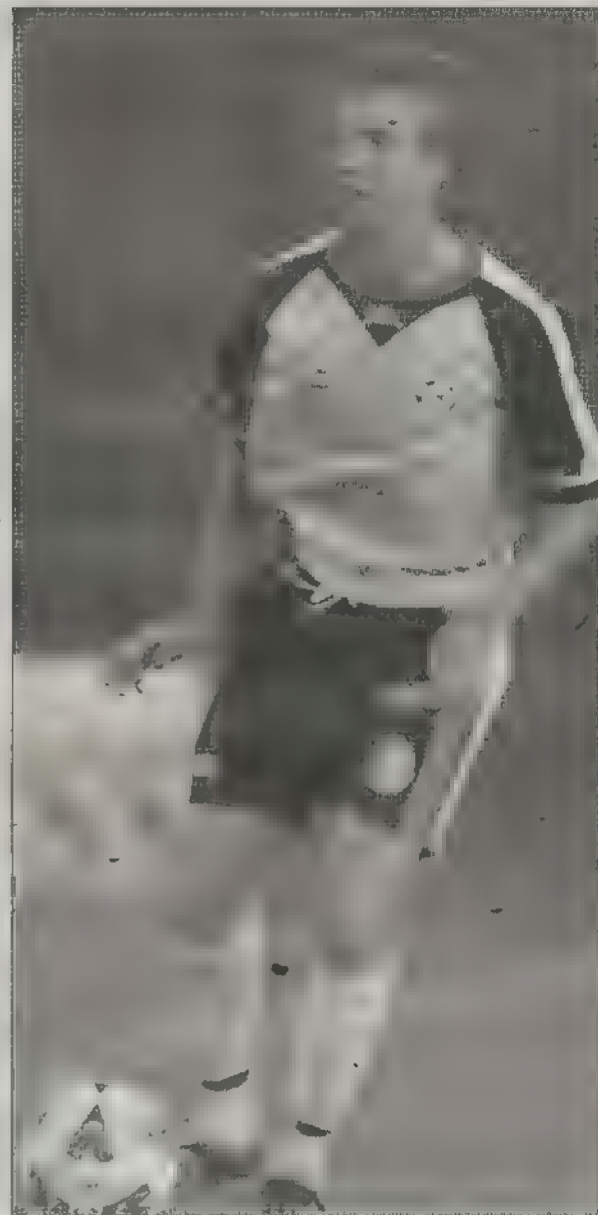
On paper Rassmussen believes that the team should be strong, but reports have it that most other clubs have also recruited well, and the expectation is that the bar will need to be lifted even further in 2003/2004 if the Panthers are to gain a place in the prized final series.

Apart from Ossie El Ali, Penrith have lost Dave Gardner, Rod Hutchinson, Garrett Dowling and Shane Hammond. Gardner and Hutchinson have both linked with Canterbury while Hammond is still trailing with several clubs and considering his options.

Rassmussen was very sorry to lose the services of El Ali, both on and off the field.

El Ali is such a great character, of course and a great team player and coach. His loss will leave a significant hole to fill.

Trail form has been good,



Penrith Panthers stalwart Tim O'Connell

with a win over A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 3-1, a 2-1 loss to a strong Blacktown City Demons, and a 1-1 draw two weeks ago against St. George Saints.

This last weekend the club played Bonnyrigg on the Saturday where they won 4-2 after coming from two goals down early and were beaten 2-0 by a new-look Belconnen side on the Sunday, albeit with several players from Saturday's game sitting things out.

In the Saturday game new man Galayini looked especially sharp up front and scored twice for his new club. Like all you talk to, Rassmussen and club spokesman Mike Starr, see the Premier League in 2003/2004 as being a very even competition, with no easy games for any of the twelve squads.

However, the Panthers are not in the 2003/2004 competition to be a passenger, and they are keen to get into the Finals' series and from there progress.

The last few months have seen much activity for the Panthers, with the merger of its youth operations with those of the Nepean Association to form the new entity of Penrith Nepean United.

The activities of the new entity are progressing along well, and clearly the links have formed closer ties between the two stakeholders, which is rubbing off into a co-operative senior commitment approach.

While the senior commitments of both stakeholders do remain separate, the two bodies are working together to see what can be done to maximise the success of soccer in the Penrith/Nepean area.



Journeyman Penrith star Peter Bennett has returned from Singapore to rejoin the Panthers



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ROCKDALE CITY SUNS

Suns Look for Premier League Stability

with Greg Stock

Rockdale has been one of the best-supported and most underachieving clubs in the state league ranks for time immemorial.

While their debut season in Premier League last year was full of merit, the question still remains, when will they finally win a Premier League Championship?

Formed in the late 1970's with strong ties to the Macedonian community, the club first made its mark in the state league taking over the spot left vacant in the old First Division by North Sydney Inter in 1981.

Calling themselves Rockdale Ilinden Inter for the 1982 season their top-flight status was short lived and they were relegated after finishing last.

The drop in class enabled them to assemble a very competitive team and they proceeded to win the Second Division Championship in 1983 and returned to the top flight in 1984 to finish a close second to Inter Monaro.

Inaugural members of the Super League in 1992, the club struggled for consistency and were again relegated at the end of the 1996 season when the league was reduced from 12 to 10 teams.

For the past six seasons the Suns have

been in the second-tier competition, the old First Division which has now become the Winter Super League, and under the stewardship of coach Mile Todorovski were able to achieve an historic Championship/Premiership double in 2002, earning them promotion to the Premier League.

The move however was not without pain, with the club electing to take the game to a wider audience using John Crehan Park in Wollongong as their home ground.

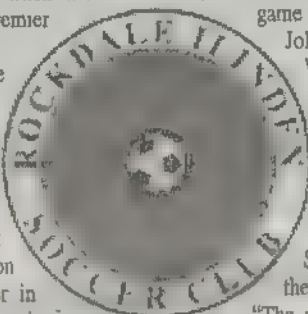
But this season the Suns will be back closer to home having signed on to play their games after Christmas at Seymour Shaw Park in the heart of the Sutherland Shire.

"The move to Wollongong last year was a very expensive one for us," said coach Bill Pilovski.

"A lot of our fans who had been used to seeing us play in the St. George area lost touch with us and it was difficult to try and get these supporters to go to Wollongong to see our games."

"In playing matches at Seymour Shaw we hope to see these supporters return and also offer football fans of the Sutherland Shire the opportunity to follow a Premier League team."

In putting together a competitive team for the new season, Pilovski is under no illusions that improvement is needed if they are to push for a top five spot.



Brilliant Rockdale winger Peter Apolevski in full flight

"We struggled in a few key positions and we were overly reliant on three or four players last season, which made it hard," conceded coach Pilovski, who has assumed full control of the team after the departure of co-coach from last season Mile Todorovski.

"Our main aim was to recruit a few key-position players to improve our weaknesses and I am very happy with the players we have signed," said Pilovski, who is more than happy with the players he has signed.

Coming into the team are former Parramatta Power, Melita and Olympic defender Nick Orlic, ex-Sydney Olympic striker Harry James, who has a few Young Socceroo caps from the mid-90's,

and talented midfielder Tony Sekulic - three quality players who all know what it takes to win a championship.

Forgotten defender Alex Kotevich will also return after a season out through injury, and should be a big asset to the Suns backline.

On the debit side, Denis Alilovic has left to join Sydney Olympic, Sasha Tirovski and Goran Talevski are plying their trade overseas.

Eddie Wong and Trent Worrall were released to Winter Super League club Hajduk Wanderers, while veteran striker Spase Najdoski has opted to take a coaching role with the club and may only play a small role off the bench.

"The signs at training have been good

and the boys are really starting to gel," continued Pilovski.

"We have a few games coming up in the Johnny Warren Cup and if we can get the balance of the side right there, we should be looking to put our best foot forward by about Christmas time."

Goalkeeper Peter Trajceviski could be a 'smokey' to return to Rockdale after some enigmatic performances with Sydney Olympic, while the signing of a quality striker could still be on the cards for the Suns.

"We have our eyes on a few players," said Pilovski, "but I am playing my cards close to my chest at present."

"Let's just say we might have one or two surprises in the next few weeks."



Former Rockdale keeper Peter Trajceviski is tipped to return to the Suns



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ST GEORGE

Future Seems Brighter for Historic St George

with Greg Stock

Think football in the 60's, 70's and 80's and you think St. George. Originally formed by the Hungarian community in the early 1950's, the Saints shot to prominence in the early 1960's when the switched from their old name of Budapest to embrace the local soccer community in St George.

With names like Johnny Warren, Doug Uyesenovic, Manfred Schaefer, the O'Shea brothers, Robbie Slater, Scott Ollerenshaw, their production line of talented Socceroos was unstoppable as they cemented their name at the top of the football tree and endeared themselves to a generation of fans.

But the times are changed and, since their relegation from the National League in 1990, the club has struggled through a number of mini-crises, largely brought about by the fading of their traditional

Hungarian supporter base.

The terraces at St. George Stadium, once the pride of the club, fell empty and with it came a number of seasons at the wrong end of the table.

Enter a new President in Ross Gardiner and coach in Manny Spanoudakis and, with them, a new attitude.

Working through a number of urgent financial issues, which pressed the club severely over the past few years, Gardiner and his committee have slaved tirelessly to secure the long-term future of the club, the results of which are expected to come to fruition over the next few years.

The signing of a major sponsor in Sydney Home Loans was the first step, as well as getting the local association clubs behind the senior club in a bid to strengthen the supporter base and to offer a career progression for any talented youngster.

"We are into our third year of a five year plan and already the signs are very

promising," said coach Manny Spanoudakis.

"Despite our years of history we came off a very low base in terms of finances and direction and we are really only now starting to realise some of the hard work we put in place way back then."

A promising second half to last season has many Saints fans optimistic of this years fortunes with a number of high profile recruits electing to stay on.

Raphael Bove, Zoki Adioski, Sebastian Sinozic and Vince Savoca have re-signed, as has veteran striker Bruno Beddomi, who at 38 years of age will be the oldest player in the Premier League.

Coming into the squad will be ex-Northern Spirit Daniel Watkins, former Socceroo Gabriel Mendez and Adrian Webster, while a Czech-born striker named Dalibor Sielkic and tall English goalkeeper Richard Patritzi round out the list.

On the debit side, George Maglis, Con Anastasiadis and Abbas Saad have retired, Orhan Dincer and Ali Salim have gone on to clubs in Turkey.

Achileas Markopoulos has been released, while Evangelos Petratos has moved on permanently to Sydney Crescent Star.

"We have been pleased with the boys we have signed and I feel we will be a very competitive unit," said Spanoudakis. "One of the best signings we have made is Aytac Genc who has come in to be my assistant coach."

"A former Socceroo and National League player, his experience will be invaluable to the team as we seek to take the next step."

Despite signing some high-profile names, the club is quietly confident a number of the side's juniors can make the step up and have earmarked Kosta Lagoudakis as one of those with a lot of future potential.

Despite suffering an ankle injury last weekend against Penrith, Lagoudakis is considered by many to be the 'real deal' and could be one to keep an eye out for during the 2003/04 Premier League campaign.

"Every side who starts the season wants to make the top five and we are no exception, but it all comes down to being competitive in each game and a little luck along the way," said Spanoudakis.

"Our problem last year was winning games in the first half of the season."

"Hopefully we can rectify that problem and show everybody St George is a quality football team who can win games," the determined Spanoudakis said.



St George midfielder Maxi Sevares celebrates a goal last weekend



Saints goalkeeper Richard Patritzi has returned after several years overseas



Gabriel Mendez could be a gun signing for St George



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SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR

Big Things Expected from Super League Champs

by Paul Goodwin

What an exciting time it has been for the Premier League's newest club, Sydney Crescent Star!

A year ago they had broken away from the Minotaurs to go it alone in the NSW winter Super League and few could have anticipated that they would dominate the league in the way they did, especially in the early weeks and while they faltered a little later in the season they had enough momentum to win the league and go on to beat closest rivals Fraser Park in the Grand Final.

Naturally the club will need strengthened to be competitive and they face the same difficulty Rockdale City Suns did when they came up last time. It is not easy to do back to back seasons and it needs the right balance between giving the players a break after a tough season and keeping them fresh.

signed.

They include Daniel Wiltoughby from MSC Liverpool, Sam Nizam from Stanmore Hawks, Anthony Hartshorn from Hajduk Wanderers, Michael Sidric from Dulwich Hill, goalscoring freak Ben Jenke from First Division Northern Tigers, Mark Butler who moves in from Shamrock Rovers in Ireland, Artur Mandes coming in from St George via outings in the Italy Serie C, Ivo De Jesus ex Canberra Cosmos and Belconnen and Nathan Rivera from Parramatta Eagles who also turned out for AC United last winter.

The loss of Tanju Balabanel to Wollongong Wolves will be keenly felt and Tayfun Devrimol will also not be

youth set up to ensure a presence in all age groups for the club.

The major influence in determining the club's ability to succeed in this year's Premier League will be the performances of its three key players, captain Yavuz Ekinici, who is expected to be the driving force and the inspiration of the team, goalkeeper Steve Tolios will provide the necessary experience and direction to lead the team at the back and dynamic midfielder Terry Atsas who is expected to shine and make his presence felt, after only one season in the Super League.

Terry has shown he has the class and flair to become one of the superstars of Australian soccer. His brand of football has been likened to Ned Zelic and his performances will go a long way in determining how successful the club will be in the Premier League.

Astute coach Yasin Ozdenak is realistically hoping for a top five finish. He realises, however, that this will be a difficult task as the losses of Tanju, Tayfun and Devrim will be hard to replace.

Nevertheless the club is ambitious and is used to achieving success in a short period of time and Yasin has the ability to bring the best out of his players.

Sydney Crescent Star was originally formed in 1978 by its current President Lee Yildirim, and played in the Eastern Suburbs Association competition, later entering the Soccer NSW State League and progressing up to Division 2. Crescent Star won two premierships during this period. The club stopped participation in 1987 after ten years of success and regrouped.

In 1998 the club resumed participation in the 4th division. In 2001 the club won the 1st grade premiership and the championship in Division 3.

Then in 2002 the club merged with Hurstville City Minotaurs in the Super League and finished 7th.

This year the club entered the Super League as a sole identity and won the Premiership & Championship in both first grade and under 19s.

And what a year it was! Tanju Balabanel got the Golden Boot and there were few close rivals, his prodigious scoring making him a marked man by the start of the second round. Injuries to keeper Steve Tolios did not hamper them as his understudy did a fabulous job too. And the skipper Yavuz Ekinici really came of age.

The club's Lidcombe Oval is the home the club had been



Evangelos Petratos (right) celebrates a goal with Terry Atsas

looking for for ages and they are hoping to make it even more comfortable for their supporters.

Development plans have been given to Auburn Council to erect cover over existing seating for approximately 600 spectators.

Work for this will begin immediately and should be ready for the club's first home game on December 6th.

Also the club has committed \$50,000 to upgrade the current grandstand plus

some other minor improvements.

It does look like an exciting time for all concerned and the queues at the canteen for the renowned kebabs can only get longer as the summer arrives.

Time will tell if the Crescent Star boys can prove as competitive as Rockdale were last season.

The pre season competition going on at St George Stadium should answer a few questions, if not for the fans then certainly for the coach.



Hard working Crescent Star midfielder Yavuz Ekinici

Of course the new players will help as some of them have not felt the same pressures during the winter though some if not most have played in the winter and kept themselves very busy.

Training and trials for both grades resumed on Tuesday 21 October. There was a large turnout of players from all different levels from Div 2 to Premier League.

So far most of the players have been

around. He could well be back at Bonnyrigg before too long.

Devrim Huseyin has elected to return to Bonnyrigg while Huseyin Bayhan has been released.

The club has appointed as Under 20's coach the familiar figure of Greg Pipikios who was with Parramatta City in Division 2. The link with Parramatta City is made by the combining of the Crescent Star club with Parramatta's



Petratos scores against Sydney University in the Winter Super League

FROM THE SIDELINES

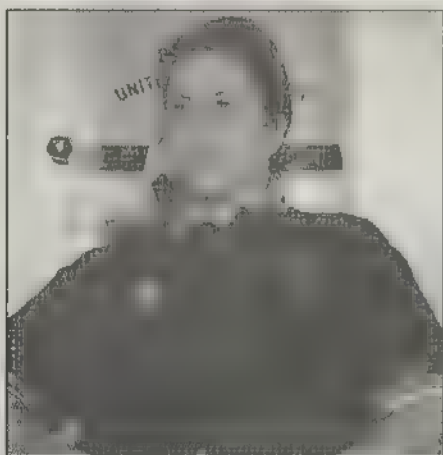
WITH GREG STOCK



Crescent Star Rejuvenated

Crescent Star have made some new signings in recent weeks following the return of coach Yasin Ozdenak from Turkey.

The new faces are Daniel Willoughby (MSC Liverpool) Sam Nizam (Stanmore Hawks) Anthony Hartshorn (Hayduk) Michael Cindric (Dulwich Hill) Ben Jenke (Northern Tigers) Mark Butler (Shamrock Rovers-Ireland) Arthur Mandas (St George) Ivo DeJesus (Canberra Cosmos) Nathan Riviera (Parramatta Eagles) More in Paul Goodwin's preview.



Ivo De Jesus has signed for Premier League newcomers Sydney Crescent Star

Demons Relax Over Weekend

Blacktown City have signed former Northern Spirit and Sydney Olympic midfielder Marcus Phillips to a one year deal. Phillips has impressed coach Brian Brown in a couple of recent trial games and he is expected to line up alongside Simon Catanzaro and possibly Joshua Maguire in a new look Demons engine room.

Maguire has agreed to terms with the club but is currently on the injured list with a hamstring problem sustained in the teams loss to Parramatta Eagles two weekends ago. Another who is expected to sign shortly is New Zealand international Paul Urtovic, who should put pen to paper sometime this week.

The Demons didn't play a trial game over the weekend with coach Brian Brown opting to put on a short

one hour session on Saturday morning and giving the side the rest of the weekend to relax.

The club has matches lined up against Canterbury next Sunday at Valentine Park (4pm kickoff) followed by a midweek match against Northern Spirit and a hitout against A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt on Sunday week.

... So Do Canterbury

Canterbury were another side to enjoy the weekend off with coach Greg Woodhouse opting to rest the troops after they played Wollongong Wolves in a friendly at Bensley Road last Monday evening. The game finished 0-0 with both sides having chances to snatch it but for some erratic finishing.

"The side is starting to gel a bit and I was very happy with the way our midfield is coming along," said Woodhouse.

Stopper David Cervinski returning to form with a solid display against his former club while John Kyrzopoulos and David Harding looked sharp in the midfield. Striker Rod Hutchinson has returned to the training paddock following a groin problem and should take some part in the Berries next hitout against Blacktown on Sunday.

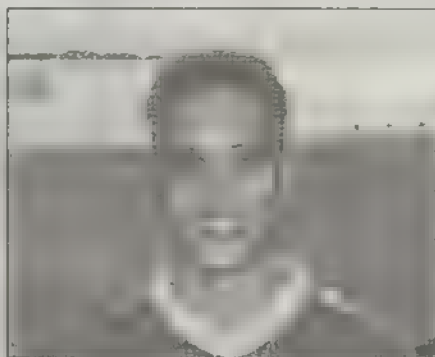
But the Panthers were Busy

Penrith had an exceptionally busy weekend playing two games in two days with coach Tony Rasmussen opting to put out a near full strength side for both games. On Saturday the Panthers knocked over Bonnyrigg 4-2, though to be fair to the White Eagles they did play a number of trialists ahead of their clash with St. George on Sunday in the first round of the Johnny Warren Cup.

Goalscorers for Penrith were Roger Galayini with 2, Adam Anderson and Tim Johnson while Greg Collins hit one for Bonnyrigg. On Sunday, they took on the visiting Belconnen side in the Blue Devils' first foray to Sydney. The result was a 2-0 win to the visitors with Ilija Prenzosi getting both goals. "Belconnen looked very good and they will definitely be a side to keep an eye out for," said Penrith boss Tony Rasmussen.

"They held their shape well and looked very strong especially in defence where they will be very hard to break down." Rasmussen gave some game time to three youngsters, Michael Dowling, Tim Harrington and Anthony Pisani, who look more than capable,

while Belconnen were best served by Alex Castro, Michael Katz and Prenzosi.



Alex Castro had an impressive match for Belconnen Blue Devils in their pre-season friendly against Penrith Panthers

Bennett to Join Penrith

Some good news for Penrith with the clearance for midfielder Peter Bennett arriving from Singapore. Bennett, who played in the S-League Cup Final last weekend, is currently holidaying in Thailand recovering from minor surgery on a broken nose sustained in the final round of the S-League. He is expected back over the weekend and due to train with the Panthers the following Tuesday night.

Olympic Hopefuls?

Rumours are flying thick and fast on the coaching future of Sydney Olympic boss Peter Papinakis. Former Fraser Park and St. George boss John Sentas and evergreen coach Mike Urukalo are considered the favourites if the board decide a change is required.

Eagles News

Parramatta Eagles coach Trevor Morgan also gave his side a well earned rest over the weekend, preferring to schedule a couple of training sessions instead. The club is close to agreeing to terms with former Ryde City utility Andy Kane to round out the squad.

The Eagles have two trial games scheduled over the next fortnight, with one against A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt this Sunday at 4pm and the following Saturday against Belconnen at 12 noon. Both games to be played at Melita Stadium.

Bankstown Show Some Magic

Bankstown City hosted Newcastle Premier League side Broadmeadow Magic in their return clash at Jensen Park on Sunday.

The Lions won 3-0 but not before a heroic fight from the visitors who held the home side scoreless for the first hour. Marc Hoenselaars scored two goals and Dimitri Nicolaou nabbed one. Coach Andy Papoulas very happy with the second half performance.

Striker Matthew Borg looks to be well over the knee problem that has plagued him in recent seasons and had another strong game.

United Thrash A.P.I.A.

The Coasties upset reigning champions A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt 5-2 on Sunday afternoon at Mingara. Youngster Jamie Subat was the star of the show with three goals. Sean Matthews and Daniel Surridge getting the other two.

"I was conscious about how things might be if the

scoreline read against us and was preparing myself to gear the guys up, now, however, I find myself in the unenviable position of having to bring the boys back to earth," said a very surprised Coasties coach Jim Foley. Their next game is against Newcastle Premier League side Highfields Azzurri at Mingara on Sunday at 5.30pm.

Hawks Appoint Doyle

Stanmore Hawks have appointed former Soccerroo John Doyle as their 'Technical Director of Coaching.'

Faria's Future with Blacktown?

Fraser Park's Tony Faria was spotted down at Blacktown City training last week, with speculation mounting he could return to his old club. The highly sought after forward has seemingly knocked back some lucrative offers from at least three other Premier League clubs and is expected to make a firm decision on his future this week. Faria is also contemplating a trip to England in late November for trials.

Maric Expecting Nirvana

After last week's story on the retirement of Canterbury defender Tom Maric, we are interested to report that his mobile phone ran off the hook with offers from three other teams including one NSL outfit.

"It is very flattering to be so highly thought of, and even though a return to the National League is tempting, I have made my decision to retire and study karate," he said.

Maric is expecting his girlfriend Nirvana and their 6-month old son Sam to arrive back in Sydney in two weeks.

Ellul Agrees with Sharks

Sutherland has announced that Vic Ellul has agreed to terms to coach the club for season 2004. The Sharks are already trialling and are looking for players who think they have what it takes. More information from Vic on 0408 962 314.



Interpersonal relations at the 'Warren Cup' match between Bonnyrigg WE and St George.

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WARREN CUP

By Paul Goodwin

SAINTS BEAT EXPERIMENTAL WHITE EAGLES

	Bonnyrigg WE	2
	St George	3

St George, as hosts of this important tournament named in honour of their former captain and star, Johnny Warren, and with funds raised going towards the Sydney Cancer Foundation, took centre stage for the late game.

Although many players were missing due to injury, the Saints still looked a useful side on paper and were facing a Bonnyrigg side which had gone down 4-2 to Penrith the day before at Knight Park in another friendly game.

Ex-Northern Spirit, Sydney Olympic and Sydney United star Gabriel Mendez, best known in NSW football circles for his exploits with Parramatta Eagles, was one of the leading lights for St George. He wasted little time delivering a free kick that Bonnyrigg keeper, Steve Angelov, did well to reach and knock away for a corner.

In the 13th minute Max Sevares crossed from deep on the left and found prolific veteran Bruno Beddoni lurking.

Beddoni headed fiercely at keeper Angelov. When the ball bounced off his hands and rebounded, Beddoni managed to chest it in across the line for the opening goal.

Former Canterbury junior keeper, Richard Patrzi, back after three years overseas playing in the English Football Conference, where he turned out for the glamour side Kingstonian, was in the thick of the

action early as he took the field for his new club for the first time.

Apparently beaten several times, he managed to cling onto the ball in the face of a Bonnyrigg barrage for much of the first half.

At the other end it was left to Gabriel Mendez to test the keeper with a series of free kicks from around the edge of the box, but none bore fruit. In truth, that Beddoni goal had come out of the blue and on this occasion so did the others.

Bonnyrigg almost took the lead in the 26th, when the very lively Dejan Malenica struck the right hand post with a low shot that then bounced off the left post as it cannoned back across the line, before being claimed by the relieved Patrzi.

Another to impress for the Saints was ex-Colchester United midfielder Adrian Webster, while Max Sevares and Seb Sinozic both had strong games on their return to the side after playing elsewhere during the off season.

A penalty awarded to Bonnyrigg White Eagles was put away by Fred Umlil, after an infringement in the box spotted by referee Alex Spiroski in the 38th, a tug on a striker's shirt.

But St George hit back immediately when new recruit Dalibor Slezak played a smart return pass with Sevares, who had made his move from the deep. Sevares' brilliant shot from 25 yards out on the right



Sevares joins team mates to celebrate his excellent goal from the right

landed in the roof of the net, beating the keeper all ends up.

2-1 then to St George, who seemed to have their shooting boots on for the prelude to the new season and, despite Bonnyrigg having the better of the chances, the Saints were keeping their noses in front.

Alex Canak made it 2-2, however, on the stroke of half time for the White Eagles, after running onto a nice through pass from Shane Cevenini.

The Czech recruit, Slezak, found himself sent off after barrelling keeper Steve Angelov, in a tussle for the ball in the goalmouth, having already been given a card earlier and that reduced the Saints' fire power and competitiveness.

Umlil fired just wide from edge of the box for Bonnyrigg, after a lull in proceedings in a rather tepid second half.

The Saints, meanwhile, were playing with themselves with their numbers reduced and it paid off for them in the end.

Of the two keepers Steve Angelov stood out for most in the second half, coming off his line to punch clear more than once as the Saints took the game to the visitors in spite of their manpower shortage.

James Kovas emphasised that St George push by bursting into the box on the right in the 86th minute and, after cutting inside, beat Angelov at the near post with a smart left footer.

The former Canterbury junior, Kovas, is one of five former Berries who have migrated across from Henson Park accompanying coaching member Spiro Hantzis to the Saints.

In the end it proved a satisfying result for the home side, who will want to win the series they had the initiative to organise.



Bonnyrigg keeper Steve Angelov spilled a Bruno Beddoni header, allowing the Saints to go one-up



Elbows fly in a fiercely-contested aerial challenge

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES Steve Angelov, Scott Weis, Mark D'Alessandro, Dejan Malenica, Fred Umlil, Shane Cevenini, Chris Fleming, Greg Collins, Dalibor Drca 65, Alex Canak, George Radmanovic, Brendan Mitrovic 73, Devrim Huseyin
Subs not used Cem Adig (RGK), Frank Pellizzeri, Mark Sartoretto
ST GEORGE Richard Patrzi, Seb Sinozic, Nick Bolianitis, Adrian Webster, Raphael Bove, Bruno Beddoni, Gabriel Mendez, George Lagoudakis (Paulo Oliveira 69), Max Sevares (Justin Ashley 80), Dalibor Slezak (sent off), Zoltan Adorosi, James Kovas 46
Sub not used Anthony Lech no
Referee Alex Spiroski
Assistant Referees: Andrew Kay and Leo Romero
Yellow Cards: Bonnyrigg Mark D'Alessandro 35, George Radmanovic 59, St George George Lagoudakis 35, Dalibor Slezak 40, Adrian Webster 54

COERVER BOYS TAKE IN EUROPE

The Soccer NSW Elite Coerver junior squads recently completed a tour of Europe, racking up an impressive win-loss ratio and, by all accounts, having a great time.

Travelling during the September-October school holidays, the 64 young Australians, divided into elite boys Under 11's, 12's, 13's and 14's squads, visited Germany, Holland, Belgium.

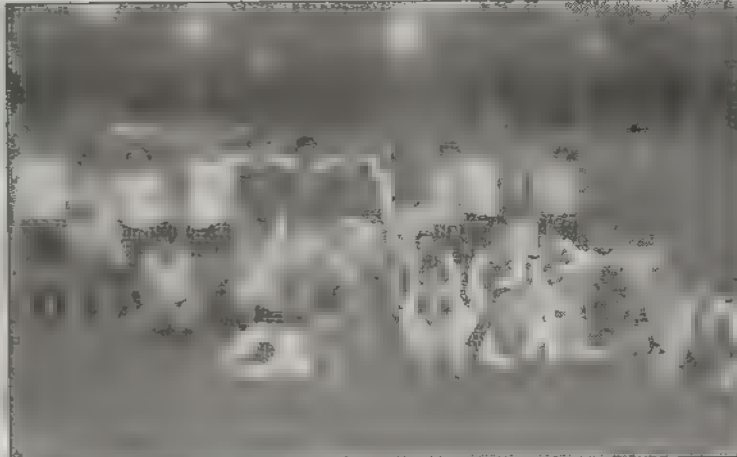
They played against youth league teams from Venray V.V., Venlo F.C., Dordrecht (Orange Wit), Fussballshule Koln, Rotherdam Football Academy, and SVC Voethal Football Academy.

Collectively, the teams recorded 10 wins, 1 draw and 4 losses from 15 matches, an good series of results against professionally-organised opposition.

Players and parents watched senior first grade games played in three different countries: Holland's Roda JC v Groningen, Germany's Monchenglad-



Coaches of the Coerver touring party take in the atmosphere at the famous Ajax Stadium in Amsterdam



The Coerver squad wind down after a challenging European encounter



Coerver players of each age group gather outside Ajax Stadium at the conclusion of their visit



back v VFL Bochum and Belgium's KRC Gente v Lokeren.

Each game supplied the atmosphere and standard of play expected of these 1st division European clubs.

The parents and players also had the opportunity to visit big cities in Holland - Amsterdam, Belgium-Brugge and Germany - Dusseldorf to sample language, culture and food at their own leisure.

Tour leader Robert Clark, Director of Soccer NSW, said the tour was a great success and reflected well on the character of the boys, who conducted themselves well on a whirlwind soccer tour of the continent.

"To be in charge of 64 Young Australians would be a task in itself

"My I say without reservation that each and every player was a credit to not only Soccer NSW but also Australia," Mr Clark said.

"I was continually approached by hotel management, restauraners, European club officials, supporters, and particularly the administrative staff of Ajax Stadium, all stating that they were impressed by the way in which the players conducted themselves," he said.

Mr. Clark said he would like to thank Paul Bentvelzen, Manager of Soccer NSW's Coerver Coaching Division, and the respective team coaches John McGrath, Ben Wright, Oscar Gonzales and Stefan Jee for their excellent efforts in training, supporting and looking after the touring players.

Penrith Panthers Announce Premier League Squads

COACH: TONY RASSMUSSEN
ASSISTANT COACH: OSSIE EL ALI
ASSISTANTS: GREG McGRISKIN AND DON CAMPBELL
SQUAD MANAGER: MIKE STAFFIN
TEAM MANAGER: ROSS SIMPSON
TRAINER: DOUG DEVLIN AND DEREK DOWNES
PHYSO: IAN AUSTIN

COLOURS **SHIRT** Black Shirt with Red, Yellow, Green and White Trim
SHORTS — Black Shorts with Red, Yellow, Green and White Trim
SOCKS — Black or Yellow Socks

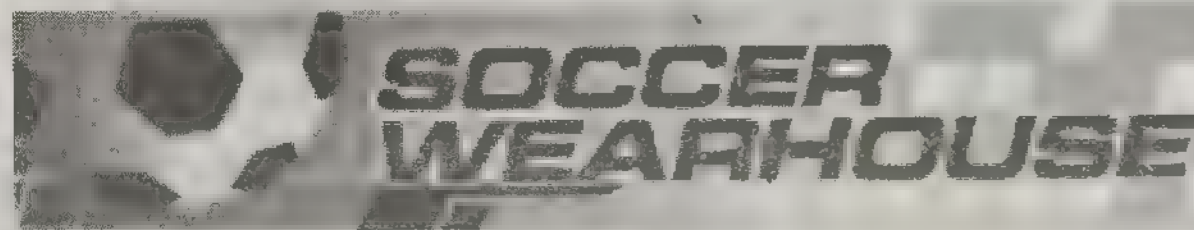
COLOURS **SHIRT** — Yellow Shirt with Red, Green, White and Black Trim
SHORTS — Black Shorts with Red, Green, white and Black Trim
SOCKS — Black or Yellow Socks

FIRST GRADE

SHIRT NO.	GIVEN NAME	SURNAME	SHIRT NO.	GIVEN NAME	SURNAME
1 GK	Chad	TAYLOR	15	Clau	LEAS
3	Lace	TYBURSKI	16	Dave	SAWNA
4	Ryan	NOBLE	17	Danie	MCCANN
5	Ben	WRIGHT	19	Danny	HINTON
6	Daniel	WHILS	20	Oswald	EL ALI
7	David	GARDNER	21	Luke	BOYD
8	Paul	MAROSEVIC	22 GK	Matthew	BLOOMFIELD
9	Rod	ITTEHSON	24 GK	Kurt	VAN ARKELS
10	Shane	HAMMOND	26	Matty	MCCAFFERY
11	Luke	O'CONNELL	35	Jim	O'CONNELL
17	Jason	SCIBERRAS			

UNDER 19

SHIRT NO.	GIVEN NAME	SURNAME	SHIRT NO.	GIVEN NAME	SURNAME
24 GK	Kurt	VAN ARKELS	11	Michael	NORO
4	Finnav	DONEY	12	Tim	HARRINGTON
3	Tim	JOHNSON	13	Scott	TYRKELL
4	Richard	DENSLEY	16	Dave	SAWNA
5	Geoff	IFKINS	17	Luke	TYBURSKI
6	Luke	INEANT	18	Chris	HOCHLI
8	Brent	ELDRIDGE	20	Robert	IACONIS
9	Michael	MCCRORY	22 GK	Matthew	BLOOMFIELD
10	Garrett	DOWLING	23 GK	Daniel	KING



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ITALIAN SERIE A

TALIAN AFFAIR

By Joe Russo

Three years during the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney I was afforded the opportunity to spend 19 days working with the Italy's most broadcaster, Rai TV, who had assembled a cast of hundreds in Sydney.

During that amazing event most of the leading soccer journalists/presenters from Italy were here and on several occasions I had the opportunity of asking them, who was the Serie A coach that they most liked and why?

Almost always the answer was Carletto Mazzone. The choice seemed to be fairly clear to most for several reasons. Mazzone, currently in charge of Bologna, offered many things that most others didn't.

Mazzone is a passionate character who has been around the Italian football scene for what seems to have been an eternity.

He is 66 years old and is proud to be Roman. He speaks with an unmistakable Roman accent and is literally adored in Rome despite having spent so few of his professional years there.

As a player he played for Roma, Spal, Siena and Ascoli. It was a reasonable, but certainly not a distinguished, career as a player. It is in coaching that he has made his name and is widely loved. However, the irony is that he has never won a Serie A league title (Scudetto).

It was way back in 1968/69 that he made his coaching debut in the old Third Division with Ascoli. During his time at Ascoli he formed a special bond with the then club president, Costantino Rozzi, and he remained with the club for seven years.

After four seasons in the Third Division, Ascoli were promoted to the Serie B. Two more seasons there and finally a Serie A promotion arrived for little Ascoli. It was the 1974/75 season and Mazzone had guided the little club to its Mecca.

It was to be Mazzone's debut in the Serie A, where he remained for 11 consecutive years, and by now he was in demand elsewhere. He moved to Fiorentina for the next three years and achieved a third place finish, his best ever result, and then he moved on to Catanzaro, then also a Serie A club.

In 1980/81 he returned to Ascoli for five more Serie A years and his bond with the little Adriatic city was consolidated.

So strong is that bond that only a few months ago newly promoted Ancona, a neighbouring and rival city to Ascoli, wanted to sign Mazzone for their return to the Serie A but, after strong objections from Ancona supporters, they decided that could never accept an Ascoli man on their bench!

It was in 1985/86 that he first coached Bologna, then in the Serie B, but he only lasted a year before moving onto Lecce for four years. The first two were in the Serie B but for the latter two Lecce were promoted.

In 1990/91 he spent a year at Pescara in the Serie B but he has never coached in that division since.

Mazzone then moved to a club, that like Ascoli, he will forever be associated with - Cagliari. It was only for two years but he formed a special bond with Cagliari supporters and he is generally loved in the little Sardinian city.

Finally in 1993/94 he had made it onto the bench of his beloved Roma. Results wise they were three mixed years there but, given that it is the club of his birthplace, he is still very much widely applauded when he visits as an away coach at Roma games. Roma loved the fact that a local was in charge and Mazzone loved them too. He still does.

Then in 1996/97 he returned once more to Cagliari. It was only for a season but the Cagliari-Mazzone relationship was further strengthened.

After a short and unsuccessful half season at Napoli, Mazzone returned to Bologna in 1998/99. Perhaps it is only in Naples that one can say that Mazzone failed.

Back at Bologna he linked up with the great Roberto Baggio and Bologna supporters loved every minute of it. Baggio became his old self and leading Serie A goalscorer and Mazzone became part of Bologna folklore.

Then after that season he moved to Perugia for two years and then to Brescia for two more years. Needless to say Mazzone was loved at both Perugia and Brescia and especially at the latter because the Mazzone-Baggio partnership was rekindled.

So it came as no surprise that when Bologna was looking for a coach only a matter of days before the start of this season that they turned to Mazzone for guidance a third time.

He may not have won a Scudetto, because generally he was always associated with lesser-known clubs, but there is no more widely loved coach in Italy. Mazzone is a true legend in every respect and don't just take my word for it. Ask Ascoli, Cagliari, Roma, Bologna, Perugia and Brescia supporters just for starters. Rarely has a coach left such a vivid impression at every place he has worked. Take a bow Carletto Mazzone.

◆◆◆◆◆
Meanwhile Sydney listeners can tune into 98.5 FM on Sunday nights at 10.00pm for all the latest soccer news.

AC MILAN1 JUVENTUS1

A stunning 84th minute volley from Marco Di Vaio gave Italian champions Juventus a 1-1 draw at AC Milan and kept the pair neck and neck at the top of Serie A.

David Trezeguet's chest down was met by Di Vaio with precision, his powerful volley leaving Milan keeper Dida with no chance.

Milan had gone ahead in the 65th minute through Danish striker Jon Dahl Tomasson, who finished well after a mesmerising run from Andrea Pirlo.

The draw leaves the pair level at the top on 20 points each.

UDINESE1 LAZIO2

Roberto Mancini's Lazio took the lead in the 18th minute when striker Bernardo Corradi out-jumped keeper Morgan De Sanctis to head home a Massimo Oddo cross.

But Udinese, who have made a promising start to the season, pulled level 11 minutes later with a superb volley from striker Vincenzo Iaquinta.

The visitors secured all three points in the 33rd minute when striker Simone Inzaghi tapped home from close range after De Sanctis parried a shot from Dejan Stankovic.

ANCONA0 SIENA0

Struggling Ancona, in search of their first league win of the season, were held to a dull goalless draw by in-form Siena.

The Tuscan club had the better of the chances - a first half Tore Andre Flo header was cleared off the line and Nicola Ventola wasted a one on one with Ancona goalkeeper Alessio Scarpi, blasting wide.

BOLOGNA0 SAMPDORIA1

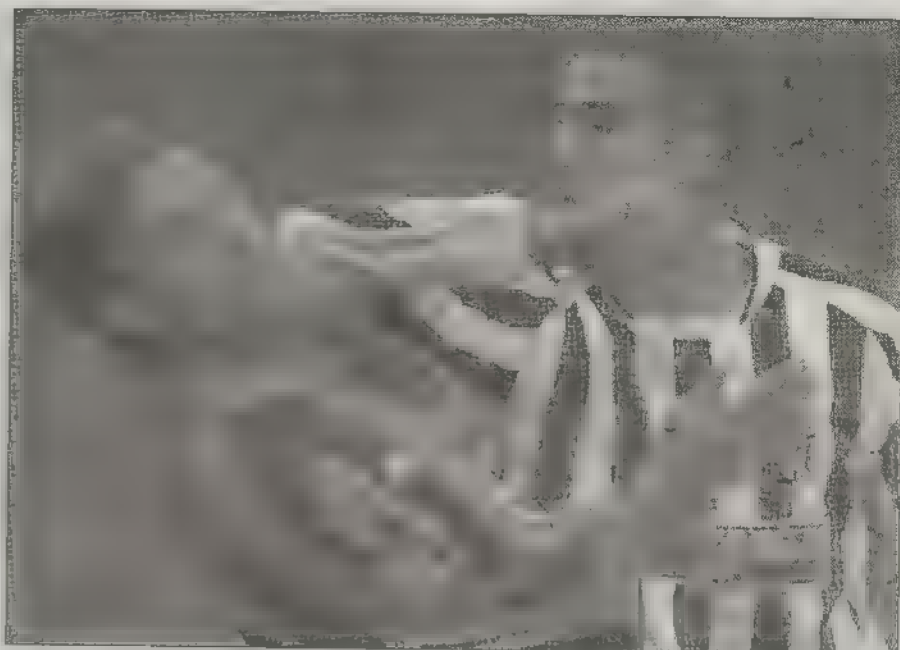
A deflected free-kick by Cristiano Doni in the 33rd minute gave Sampdoria their first away win of the season lifting Walter Novellino's side above the relegation zone.

Struggling Bologna fell to their fifth league defeat and are now fourth from bottom on five points.

SERIE B

Avellino 2 Treviso 3, Cagliari 1 Napoli 1, Fiorentina 1 Como 0, Genoa 1 Catania 3, Livorno 1 Ternana 0, Messina 2 Pescara 2, Palermo 0 Atalanta 0, Piacenza 1 Triestina 1, Salernitana 1 Verona 1, Albinoletta 2 Vicenza 1, Torino 3 Ascoli 1, Venezia 3 Bari 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Atalanta	12	7	5	0	18	-7	26
2. Ternana	12	7	2	3	18	-11	23
3. Palermo	12	6	5	1	14	-8	23
4. Livorno	12	6	4	2	16	-11	22
5. Catania	12	6	3	3	21	-14	21
6. Torino	12	6	2	4	19	-13	20
7. Piacenza	12	5	4	3	11	-11	19
8. Cagliari	12	5	3	4	23	-14	18
9. Fiorentina	12	4	5	3	9	-8	17
10. Treviso	12	4	5	3	12	-12	17
11. Triestina	12	4	4	4	17	-19	16
12. Messina	12	3	6	3	14	-16	15
13. Albinoletta	12	4	3	5	14	-18	15
14. Ascoli	12	4	3	5	12	-16	15
15. Verona	12	3	5	4	17	-17	14
16. Pescara	12	3	5	4	12	-15	14
17. Salernitana	12	3	4	5	9	-13	13
18. Vicenza	12	2	6	4	11	-12	12
19. Napoli	12	1	9	2	9	-12	12
20. Venezia	12	2	6	4	11	-15	12
21. Genoa	12	3	3	6	11	-17	12
22. Bari	12	2	4	6	16	-19	10
23. Como	12	2	2	8	7	-18	8
24. Avellino	12	1	4	7	12	-17	7



Juventus forward David Trezeguet (right) takes a 'shot' at AC Milan's Dario Simic during their 1-1 draw at the San Siro in Milan.

BRESCIA2 PARMA3

In-form Parma earned their fifth league win of the season after coming from behind to beat Brescia.

After falling behind to a Matuzalem strike after three minutes Domenico Morfeo shd home the equaliser eight minutes later. Luigi Di Biagio's goal in the 36th minute restored Brescia's lead but a Marco Marchionni header three minutes before the break levelled the scoreline once again.

Youngster Alberto Gilardino, on as a substitute for the injured Adnaro, nodded home the winner midway through the second half for Parma who are now in fourth place on 17 points, three behind league leaders AC Milan and Juventus.

LECCE2 EMPOLI1

Lecce climbed out of the relegation zone with a hard-fought victory over bottom club Empoli.

The match, played under heavy rain, saw Lecce take a second minute lead thanks to an Ernesto Chevanton penalty after the Uruguayan himself was brought down in the box. Two minutes before the break Chevanton doubled the advantage as he broke the offside trap, cut back past a defender and rifled home.

The visitors were left with ten men after 54 minutes when defender Marco Lanzaro was sent off for a last man foul on Lecce's Davor Vucinic. Five minutes later Empoli's Tommasi Rocchi pulled a goal back but Lecce held on for the win leaving the Tuscan club rooted to the foot of the table.

MODENA1 PERUGIA0

A nice through ball by Diomansy Kamara four minutes after the restart paved the way for Riccardo Allegretti to slip his shot past Perugia's Australian goalkeeper Zelko Kalac for the only goal of the game.

Surprising Modena grabbed their fourth win of the season and are in sixth place on a solid 13 points. Struggling Perugia remain winless after eight league matches played.

ROMA2 REGGINA0

One goal in each half gave Roma an important victory over Reggina helping Fabio Capello's side leap-frog rivals Lazio into third place on 18 points, two behind leaders AC Milan and Juventus.

Vincenzo Montella opened the scoring after 18 minutes as he beat the offside trap, controlled the ball and fired past Reggina goalkeeper Enrico Belardi for his third of the season.

After Reggina's David Di Michele had a goal disallowed for offside, youngster Daniele De Rossi provided John Carew the opportunity to slot home from close range by feeding the Norwegian with a cheeky flick nine minutes from time.

FIXTURES

Sunday 9th November

Brescia	vs	Bologna
Inter	vs	Ancona
Juventus	vs	Lazio
Parma	vs	Milan
Perugia	vs	Lecce
Reggina	vs	Modena
Roma	vs	Lazio
Sampdoria	vs	Empoli
Siena	vs	Chievo

SERIE A

Udinese 1 Lazio 2, AC Milan 1 Juventus 1, Ancona 0 Siena 0, Bologna 0 Sampdoria 1, Brescia 2 Parma 3, Chievo Verona 0 Inter 2, Lecce 2 Empoli 1, Modena 1 Perugia 0, Roma 2 Reggina 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Milan	8	6	2	0	16	4	20
2 Juventus	8	6	2	0	19	8	20
3 Roma	8	5	3	0	16	3	18
4 Parma	8	5	2	1	16	-9	17
5 Lazio	8	5	1	2	15	10	16
6 Inter	8	3	4	1	8	5	13
7 Modena	8	4	1	3	9	7	13
8 Udinese	8	3	2	3	11	9	11
9 Chievo	8	3	2	3	10	9	11
10 Siena	8	2	4	2	10	7	10
11 Sampdoria	8	2	3	3	7	10	9
12 Reggina	8	1	5	2	9	12	8
13 Brescia	8	1	3	4	14	20	6
14 Lecce	8	2	0	6	9	19	6
15 Bologna	8	1	2	5	9	13	5
16 Perugia	8	0	5	3	9	16	5
17 Ancona	8	0	3	5	4	15	3
18 Empoli	8	0	2	6	5	20	2



ENGLISH



EVERTON0
CHELSEA1

Chelsea ground out another win to stay just a point behind leaders Arsenal as the scoring touch continued to desert David Moyes' side.

Everton had plenty of possession and also created chances with Alex Nyarko hitting the bar in the first half and Tomasz Radzinski spurning two fine opportunities.

The home side paid the price when Chelsea counter-attacked in the 49th minute and Romanian striker Adrian Mutu knocked in Geremi's cross for the winner.

LEEDS UTD1
ARSENAL4

Arsenal rounded off a miserable week for Leeds, adding a heavy defeat to their severe financial problems.

Thierry Henry needed only eight minutes to catch the Leeds defence napping, outpacing two defenders as he chased on to Ashley Cole's long ball before steering it past Paul Robinson. Robert Pires drilled in the second at the far post off a Fredrik Ljungberg cross and Henry grabbed his second on the rebound after Dennis Bergkamp hit the post.

Brazilian midfielder Gilberto added a fourth after the re-start, while Leeds pulled one back with a goal credited to Alan Smith in a crowded penalty area.

MANCHESTER UTD3
PORTSMOUTH0

Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan scored his third goal in as many games and substitutes Cristiano Ronaldo and Roy Keane hit the net in the last 10 minutes as United returned to winning ways.

Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy hit the bar and missed a sitter before Forlan put United ahead in the 37th, firing home on the bounce through a packed goalmouth.

Ronaldo's free-kick from the right eluded all his team mates and Portsmouth keeper Shaka Hislop, while Keane latched on to a throw-in from the Portuguese winger to lash home left-footed.

FULHAM1
LIVERPOOL2

Liverpool snatched victory in a dramatic last few minutes, with Danny Murphy converting a penalty and Fulham's Luis Boa Morte getting a red card.

Emile Heskey gave Liverpool a 17th-minute lead, volleying home a cross from former Fulham defender Steve Finnan, while Louis Saha equalised from close range after a wayward interception by Liverpool skipper Steven Gerrard.

But Murphy tucked home the 89th minute winner after a clumsy tackle by Zat Knight on Liverpool substitute Florent Sinama-Pongolle, who



Manchester United's Ryan Giggs (right) skips past Portsmouth's Boris Zivkovic.

was subsequently felled by a brutal challenge by Boa Morte, earning him a red card.

MIDDLESBROUGH2
WOLVERHAMPTON0

A fantastic goal from Spanish playmaker Gaizka Mendieta set Middlesbrough on their way to only their second home league win of the season.

Wolves' mini-revival of six matches without defeat after a nightmare start to the season had looked set to continue until Mendieta blasted home from 25 metres in the 73rd minute.

Brazilian substitute Juninho added Boro's second while Wolves had Alex Rae dismissed in the 89th minute.

NEWCASTLE UTD1
ASTON VILLA1

Buoyed by four league wins on the trot, Newcastle's run ended with a point against 10-man Villa despite creating most of the chances and missing a penalty.

Dion Dublin broke the deadlock early for Villa, heading in a Gareth Barry corner. Alan Shearer missed a great chance to equalise but Newcastle's pressure paid off just before the break when Laurent Robert struck from the edge of the area.

SOUTHAMPTON0
MAN. CITY2

A rare goal from Robbie Fowler guided City to victory at St Mary's after the luck ran out for home striker James Beattie.

Fowler scored his first league goal of the season, a superb solo effort after picking up possession more than 30 metres out, but Beattie was unlucky with a booming free kick.

Paglo Wanchope made sure of the points in the closing minutes.

TOTTENHAM0
BOLTON1

Spurs slumped to their first defeat under caretaker manager David Pleat, while Bolton notched a much-needed victory.

Bolton's Nigerian midfielder Jay-Jay Okocha rattled the Spurs crossbar with one of several shots from distance in the first half and it was his shot after Spurs tried to clear a corner that allowed Kevin Nolan to pounce in the 73rd minute.

LEICESTER CITY2
BLACKBURN0

Leicester moved off the bottom with only their second win of the season, while Rovers slumped to their fifth straight league defeat.

Rovers strikers Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole missed chances in both halves, Cole had an effort ruled offside and luckless Rovers also had a penalty appeal turned down.

Former Rovers striker Marcus Bent hooked home a Muzzy Izzet free kick in the 75th minute and Steve Howey volleyed in a second late on.

FIXTURES

Saturday 8th November

Arsenal	v	Tottenham
Aston Villa	v	Middlesbrough
Blackburn	v	Everton
Bolton	v	Southampton
Charlton	v	Fulham
Chelsea	v	Newcastle
Liverpool	v	Man Utd
Man City	v	Leicester
Portsmouth	v	Leeds
Wolverhampton	v	Birmingham

PREMIER LEAGUE

Everton 0 Chelsea 1, Leeds Utd 1 Arsenal 4, Manchester Utd 3 Portsmouth 0, Middlesbrough 2 Wolverhampton 0, Newcastle Utd 1 Aston Villa 1, Southampton 0 Man. City 2, Tottenham 0 Bolton 1, Fulham 1 Liverpool 2, Leicester City 2 Blackburn 0, (Birmingham vs Charlton - Tuesday AET).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	11	8	3	0	23	9	27
Chelsea	11	8	2	1	21	9	26
Man Utd	11	8	1	2	21	6	25
Birmingham	10	5	4	1	9	5	19
Man City	11	5	3	3	22	12	18
Fulham	11	5	3	3	21	15	18
Liverpool	11	5	2	4	17	12	17
Newcastle	11	4	4	3	16	13	16
Southampton	11	4	4	3	10	7	16
Charlton	10	4	3	3	14	13	15
Portsmouth	11	3	3	5	11	15	12
Tottenham	11	3	3	5	10	14	12
Aston Villa	11	2	5	4	9	13	11
Middlesbrough	11	3	2	6	9	15	11
Bolton	11	2	5	4	9	19	11
Everton	11	2	4	5	12	15	10
Wolverhampton	11	2	3	6	7	23	9
Leicester	11	2	2	7	16	21	8
Blackburn	11	2	2	7	15	21	8
Leeds	11	2	2	7	10	25	8

FIRST DIVISION

Burnley 1 Cardiff 1, Coventry 1 West Ham 1, Crewe 1 Reading 0, Ipswich 3 Gillingham 4, Millwall 1 Notts Forest 0, Preston 3 Derby 0, Stoke 2 Sheffield Utd 2, Walsall 1 Norwich 3, Watford 1 Rotherham 0, West Bromwich 0 Sunderland 0, Wigan 5 Crystal Palace 0, Wimbledon 2 Bradford 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	17	9	6	2	26	13	33
West Brom	16	10	2	4	23	13	32
Norwich	16	9	4	3	24	16	31
Sheff Utd	16	8	4	4	26	18	28
Sunderland	16	8	4	4	19	11	28
West Ham	16	7	7	2	19	11	28
Ipswich	17	8	3	6	32	26	27
Millwall	17	7	6	4	21	16	27
Cardiff	16	6	6	4	27	16	24
Nottm Forest	16	7	3	6	28	19	24
Reading	16	7	3	6	23	19	24
Crewe	16	7	3	6	18	19	24
Preston	16	7	2	7	23	19	23
Coventry	15	5	5	5	22	22	20
Burnley	16	5	5	6	24	29	20
Walsall	16	5	4	7	18	19	19
Watford	16	5	4	7	17	20	19
Gillingham	16	5	4	7	18	26	19
Stoke	16	4	5	7	19	22	17
Crystal Palace	16	4	4	8	20	29	16
Derby	17	3	5	9	16	31	14
Rotherham	17	2	7	8	10	26	13
Bradford	16	3	3	10	15	27	12
Wimbledon	16	3	1	12	17	38	10

SECOND DIVISION

Brentford 2 Barnsley 1, Bristol City 1 Luton 1, Chesterfield 1 Port Vale 0, Notts County 1 Hartlepool 0, Peterborough 2 Brighton 2, Plymouth 2 Oldham 2, Rushden & Diamonds 3 Grimsby 1, Sheff Wed 0 Blackpool 1, Stockport 1 QPR 2, Swindon 2 Wycombe 0, Tranmere 1 Bournemouth 1, Wrexham 0 Colchester 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plymouth	17	8	7	2	38	20	31
Barnsley	17	8	5	4	22	20	29
QPR	16	7	7	2	27	13	28
Brighton	17	8	4	5	26	18	28
Bournemouth	17	7	7	3	24	18	28
Colchester	17	8	4	5	21	20	28
Port Vale	17	8	3	6	24	23	27
Hartlepool	17	6	7	4	28	21	25
Bristol City	17	5	9	3	19	14	24
Swindon	17	6	6	5	25	21	24
Sheff Wed	17	6	6	5	22	20	24
Wrexham	16	7	3	6	19	17	24
Rushden & Diamonds	17	7	3	7	29	29	24
Luton	17	6	5	6	29	31	23
Brentford	16	7	2	7	20	24	23
Oldham	17	5	7	5	29	28	22
Grimsby	17	6	4	7	21	25	22
Blackpool	16	6	3	7	22	26	21
Tranmere	17	4	7	6	18	26	19
Notts County	17	4	4	9	16	27	16
Stockport	17	3	6	8	20	29	15
Peterborough	17	2	8	7	20	26	14
Chesterfield	17	2	6	9	13	24	12
Wycombe	17	2	5	10	19	31	11



Robert Pires (left) and Thierry Henry (right) - The French duo picked up three of Arsenal's four goals against struggling Leeds.



German Bundesliga



Manager Juup Heynckes came out on top against former employers Bayern Munich as Schalke inflicted a 2-0 defeat on the Bundesliga champions who played with ten men for almost an hour following the dismissal of Schalke old boy Thomas Linke.

Heynckes won the German title at Bayern in 1989 and 1990, but put a huge dent in their challenge this season as Schalke continue to hold the Indian sign over Bayern at home.

A controversial penalty, after Niels Oude Kamphuis went down in the box, enabled Tomasz Hajto to put Schalke in the lead on 16 minutes. Oude Kamphuis then completed the home side's win with 11 minutes left.

Ottmar Hitzfeld's side have yet to win at the Arena Auf Schalke and have now lost their last four matches in Gelsenkirchen.

The slip-up by Bayern further strengthens Stuttgart's title bid with Felix Magath's side crushing ten-man Freiburg 4-1, and in the process moved to the top of the league.

Locked 1-1 at the interval, visitors Freiburg pressed the self-destruct button on 58 minutes as Andreas Zeyer picked up a second booking and was



Stuttgart's Fernando Meira (left) goes up for an aerial challenge with Freiburg's Ibrahim Tanko.

sent off.

Hosts Stuttgart made them pay the ultimate price netting three goals in the next seven minutes.

Goals from Christian Tiffert (62), Belarus star Alexander Hleb (64) and German international Kevin Kuranyi (65) ensured a comfortable win.

Bayern Leverkusen surrendered the lead in the Bundesliga when they were held to a 0-0 draw at Kaiserslautern.

Leverkusen, who had won their last four games, suffered in Kaiserslautern in a tight, lively game.

The visitors came close when Brazilian midfielder Robson Ponte hit the post on 49 minutes but Kaiserslautern also had their chances, two second-half efforts by Bulgarian midfielder Marian Hristov needing as many brilliant saves from Leverkusen goalkeeper Hans-Joerg Butt.

Borussia Dortmund recovered from two goals down to beat Hamburg 3-2.

Dortmund, missing 11 injured players, appeared to

be heading for another defeat four days after falling to Moenchengladbach in the German Cup.

Goals from defender Bastian Reinhardt and Argentine striker Bernardo Romeo put Hamburg 2-0 ahead of the Ruhr Valley side with 30 minutes to go.

But coach Matthias Sammer's experimental side turned the match around in five minutes with two goals including a penalty from Czech striker Jan Koller quickly followed by the winner, from Brazilian striker Ewerthon.

Werder Bremen remain near the top following a 3-1 triumph over Eintracht Frankfurt.

Brazilian forward Ailton was on target once again notching his 10th goal in 11 Bundesliga matches.

Captain Frank Baumann doubled the advantage in the 25th minute and Eintracht had pulled one back through Brazilian Chris when Croatian striker Ivan Klasnic wrapped it up for Werder on 71 minutes.

Another coach who enjoyed a successful return against his former team was Jurgen Rober whose Wolfsburg side routed Hertha Berlin 3-0.

Rober coached in the German capital for five years and watched with glee as goals from record nine-million-euro signing Andres D'Alessandro and a Diego Klimowicz double sunk Hertha.

Moenchengladbach and Hansa Rostock played out a 1-1 draw in a tense clash between two teams warming up for yet another struggle against relegation.

Moenchengladbach's Czech striker Vaclav Sverkos celebrated his 20th birthday by opening the scoring from the edge of the box on 30 minutes but Swedish midfielder Joakim Persson levelled with a great volley three minutes later.

Strugglers Cologne went down to Hanover 1-2 just days after releasing coach Friedhelm Funkel.

Striker Thomas Brdaric opened the scoring for the visitors from a counter-attack in the 32nd minute before striker Matthias Scherz equalised with a headed goal five minutes later.

Hanover were clearly the better side and were rewarded when striker Daniel Stendel hit the winner

with 10 minutes remaining.

1860 Munich striker Benjamin Lauth had a memorable evening to end the run of surprise package Bochum 3-1.

Lauth opened the scoring with his club's 1000th Bundesliga goal and struck again twice to complete a hat-trick.

Bochum had opened the scoring through Iran striker Vahid Hashemian in the 34th minute but Lauth was on target in the 49th minute and scored again from a penalty in the 66th minute before sealing the victory in the 77th.

Schalke 2 Bayern Munich 0, Stuttgart 4 Freiburg 1, Werder Bremen 3 Frankfurt 1, Wolfsburg 3 Hertha Berlin 0, Mgladbach 1 Hansa Rostock 1, Cologne 1 Hanover 2, 1860 Munich 3 Bochum 1, Kaiserslautern 0 Bayer Leverkusen 0, Borussia Dortmund 3 Hamburg 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Stuttgart	11	8	3	0	17	2	27
2 Leverkusen	11	8	2	1	23	7	26
3 Bremen	11	8	1	2	29	15	25
4 Dortmund	11	7	1	3	22	13	22
5 Bayern	11	6	3	2	25	15	21
6 Bochum	11	5	3	3	20	13	18
7 Wolfsburg	11	6	0	5	23	20	18
8 1860 M,nchen	11	5	2	4	12	13	17
9 Hannover	11	4	3	4	20	23	15
10 Schalke	11	3	5	3	14	16	14
11 Freiburg	11	3	3	5	15	20	12
12 Kaiserslautern	11	4	2	5	13	16	11
13 Hamburg	11	2	3	6	11	24	9
14 Eintracht	11	2	2	7	9	17	8
15 Hertha	11	1	5	5	8	20	8
16 K'ln	11	2	1	8	9	18	7
17 Mgladbach	11	1	4	6	7	16	7
18 Hansa	11	1	3	7	12	21	6

FIXTURES

Saturday 8th November

Hannover	vs	Werder Bremen
E.Frankfurt	vs	VfB Stuttgart
Freiburg	vs	Wolfsburg
Hertha Berlin	vs	Mgladbach
Hansa Rostock	vs	Kaiserslautern
B.Leverkusen	vs	Schalke
B.Munich	vs	B.Dortmund
Hamburg SV	vs	1860 Munich
Bochum	vs	FC Cologne

Spanish Primera Liga

Ricardo Oliveira bagged a hat-trick to helping Valencia back to the top of the ladder after a 0-5 thrashing of Real Mallorca.

Mallorca went behind within two minutes, Jorge Lopez getting the opening goal from a penalty after Fernando Nino hacked down Oliveira and got shown a red card.

Oliveira then went on the rampage and got Valencia's second just five minutes later and another on the stroke of half-time.

The Brazilian completed his hat-trick after 76 minutes before Xisco Munoz completed the rout two minutes before the whistle.

World Player of the Year Ronaldo produced a virtuoso performance to steer Real Madrid to a 3-0 win over Athletic Bilbao.

The Brazilian striker, who had hit a minor drought after failing to score for three games, produced two brilliant finishes either side of the break and then served up a third for Luis Figo as he turned in a match-winning performance at the Bernabeu.



World Player of the Year Ronaldo bagged a brace of goals against Athletic Bilbao in a 3-0 win at the Bernabeu.

Ronaldo opened the scoring on 34 minutes after controlling a loose ball with his shoulder, turning sharply and cracking a right-footed shot inside the far post.

Ronaldo's made it 2-0 on 55 minutes as he fended off three players with a jinking run before finishing off with a perfectly placed left-footed shot from the edge of the area.

The Brazilian, who now tops the scoring charts with eight goals, completed a vintage performance when he unselfishly set up Real's third for Figo.

Deportivo sit in third after turning in a lame performance in their goalless draw against Murcia at the Condomina.

The home side went closest to scoring when striker David Karanka planted a looping header on to the bar early in the second half.

Celta continue to disappoint as they slumped to

their fourth defeat of the season against a well-organised and effective Racing Santander.

Israeli international forward Yossi Benayoun scored his fourth goal of the season when he cracked in on the volley from seven metres out with just two minutes on the clock to decide the game.

Bottom-club Espanyol crashed 2-0 at home to fellow strugglers Real Zaragoza to increase the pressure on coach Javier Clemente.

Zaragoza took the lead after just 11 minutes, when their Argentine mid-

fielder Luciano Galletti connected with a cross from David Villa, before Fernando Soriano added a second 10 minutes later.

Ten-man Barcelona fought back to earn a 3-3 draw against Real Sociedad in a breathless see-saw Primera Liga encounter at Anoeta.

The Catalan's Thiago Motta opened the scoring with an outstanding header and the initiative swung back to the San Sebastian side when Igor Jauregi and Javier De Pedro got two goals within three minutes early in the second half.

Barca's Marc Overmars got arguably the best goal of the game after 70 minutes, using his speed to go past two Real Sociedad players before blasting the ball home.

Five minutes later, Sociedad's Valery Karpin then put the hosts ahead before Gabri Garcia saved a point

for Barca.

Atletico Madrid came from behind at Real Betis to win 2-1 and record their fourth successive victory.

Betis's Assuncao, perhaps the best free kick exponent in the Spanish first division, fired home one of his trademark deadball thunderbolts after 19 minutes.

However, Atletico's teenage captain Fernando Torres got goals a few minutes either side of half time to grab the victory.

Celta Vigo 0 Santander 1, Murcia 0 Deportivo 0, Real Madrid 3 Athletic Bilbao 0, Espanyol 0 Real Zaragoza 2, Malaga 2 Sevilla 0, Real Betis 1 Atletico Madrid 2, Real Mallorca 0 Valencia 5, Real Sociedad 3 Barcelona 3, Valladolid 2 Albacete 0, Villarreal 1 Osasuna 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Valencia	10	7	2	1	21	5	23
2 Real Madrid	10	7	2	1	23	9	23
3 Deportivo	10	7	1	2	19	8	22
4 Osasuna	10	5	2	3	12	8	17
5 Barcelona	10	4	4	2	14	10	16
6 Atletico	10	5	1	4	13	13	16
7 Villarreal	10	3	5	2	11	11	14
8 Racing	10	4	2	4	13	11	14
9 Valladolid	10	4	2	4	14	18	14
10 Athletic	10	4	2	4	12	12	14
11 Betis	10	3	4	3	13	13	13
12 Malaga	10	4	1	5	12	14	13
13 Real Sociedad	10	3	4	3	12	14	13
14 Sevilla	10	2	6	2	12	13	12
15 Zaragoza	10	3	2	5	8	10	11
16 Celta	10	2	4	4	13	14	10
17 Albacete	10	3	0	7	10	15	9
18 Mallorca	10	2	2	6	9	20	8
19 Murcia	10	1	4	5	7	16	7
20 Espanyol	10	1	2	7	8	22	5

FIXTURES

Sunday 9th November

Mallorca	vs	Murcia
Deportivo	vs	R Sociedad
Barcelona	vs	Betis
Atletico	vs	Villarreal
Osasuna	vs	Valladolid
Albacete	vs	Malaga
Sevilla	vs	R Madrid
Athletic	vs	Espanyol
Zaragoza	vs	Celta
Valencia	vs	Racing



Dutch Eredivisie

A last-minute penalty from Tomas Galasek edged Ajax to a 3-2 win over AZ Alkmaar and kept the Amsterdam side top of the Dutch first division.

AZ started the brighter and Kenneth Perez opened the scoring after five minutes in the Amsterdam Arena.

Midway through the first half, Zlatan Ibrahimovic equalised but a minute later Perez restored the Alkmaar lead.

AZ looked on their way to a surprise win but deep in the second half youngster Nigel de Jong scored to make it 2-2.

In the last minute, Czech Republic international Galasek settled Ajax's win by converting a penalty.

PSV Eindhoven maintained their challenge at the top of the Eredivisie with a comfortable 3-1 win away to NAC Breda.

The visitors still proved too strong for their opponents and goals from Theo Lucius (4) and Ji-Sung Park (32 & 40) wrapped up the points, with a late penalty from Orlando Engelaar proving scant consolation for NAC.

A Danny Hesp penalty was all that separated RBC Roosendaal and NEC Nijmegen after a poor game at the Vast & Goed Stadion.

Both sides saw plenty of the ball but there was little in the way of genuine openings and it took a foul by Arjan Ebbinge on Pius Ikedia to point the way to goal.

RBC skipper Hesp, an NEC player last season, made no mistake from the spot, earning his side a 53rd-minute lead they rarely looked like relinquishing.

Reginald Faria and forward Jack Tuyp scored goal within the space of two minutes midway through the opening 45 before Gert Claessens pulled one back for the home side.

New Zealand international Ivan Vicelich blasted a hat-trick as five-star Roda JC thumped struggling ADO Den Haag 5-1.

The attacking midfielder opened the scoring in the 17th minute, but the visitors were level three minutes later when Gijs Cales gave them their only moment of joy all night.

Vicelich restored the hosts' advantage just before the interval, and Edrissa Sonko virtually sealed

the points 19 minutes from time.

Aruna Kone added number four in the 83rd minute before Vicelich completed his treble, and the scoring, a minute from time.

Three second-half goals sealed a remarkable comeback for Groningen in their 3-3 draw with Feyenoord on Sunday.

Feyenoord looked to be cruising to an easy win after Antony Lurling, Dirk Kuijt and Patrick Paauwe gave the Rotterdam side a 3-0 lead at half-time.

But eight minutes after the break Martin Drent pulled one back with a header, before Brazilian Hugo scored a second for the home side with 13 minutes remaining.

Substitute Sander van Gessel then levelled the scores a minute before the final whistle to secure a well-deserved point for Groningen.

Utrecht warmed up for their second round UEFA Cup tie against Auxerre with a 2-1 win over Heerenveen. Serginho Greene gave RKC Waalwijk a 26th minute lead at fellow midtable side Willem II Tilburg before the home side came back to win 4-1 with goals from Tom Caluws, James Quinn, Romano Denneboom and Bart van den Eede. At the bottom of the table Zwolle grabbed their first win of the season after beating Twente Enschede 1-0.



Klwl star Ivan Vicelich scored a hat-trick in Roda's five-one romp over Den Haag.

Ajax Amsterdam 3 AZ Alkmaar 2, PSV Eindhoven 3 NAC Breda 1, Vitesse Arnhem 2 Volendam 2, RBC Roosendaal 1 NEC Nijmegen 0, Roda JC 5 ADO Den Haag 1, Feyenoord 3 Groningen 3, Utrecht 2 Heerenveen 1, Willem II 4 RKC Waalwijk 1, Zwolle 1 Twente 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Ajax	10	8	1	1	29	12	25
2 PSV	10	7	2	1	26	9	23
3 Alkmaar	10	7	1	2	22	8	22
4 Feyenoord	10	5	3	2	18	13	18
5 Roosendaal	10	4	3	3	10	10	15
6 Heerenveen	10	5	0	5	10	11	15
7 Roda	10	3	5	2	15	10	14
8 Willem II	10	4	2	4	12	19	14
9 Waalwijk	10	4	1	5	15	15	13
10 Twente	10	4	1	5	18	21	13
11 Groningen	10	3	3	4	13	17	12
12 Utrecht	10	3	3	4	11	15	12
13 NEC	10	4	0	6	11	17	12
14 NAC	10	3	2	5	14	14	11
15 Volendam	10	2	4	4	14	19	10
16 Den Haag	10	2	3	5	9	19	9
17 Vitesse	10	1	4	5	15	20	7
18 Zwolle	10	1	2	7	5	18	5

GREEK ETHNIKI KATIGORIA

Olympiakos retained top spot despite its two-all draw with cellar dwellers Ionikos in Athens last week.

Brazilian ace striker Giovanni set the Reds on their way with two goals in the first half but were cancelled out by a determined Ionikos outfit in the second.

Leiteri sparked the Blues revival in the 40th minute with a goal then Nikos Froussos bagged the equalizer to gift the bottom placed side a valuable point.

Panathinaikos failed to capitalize on Olympiakos' misfortune after having a scoreless nil-all draw with Halkidona.

The match was a rather dull affair for both sides which saw very few chances from the two sides.

AEK Athens sent out a stern message to the rest of the Greek First Division that they mean business with a crunching three-one win over rivals PAOK Salonika.

The match of the round saw Nikos Lyberopoulos, Vasilis Lakis and former PAOK star Yiaannis

Oakkas notch up the three goals to earn Dusan Bayevic the three valuable points. It was a night the Thessalonians would rather forget with an appalling performance that saw an outburst from its home supporters.

In the week's other fixtures, ARIS were held to a determined nil-all draw against Iraklis, OFI recorded its fourth win of the year thanks to a Soares goal in the 70th minute that put out Prodeftiki's fire out.

Kallithea and Akrotiros played an entertaining game that ended two-all but produced a lot of high scale action from both sides. Egaleo, this year's Greek surprise packets were held to a nil-all draw against Panionios.

Finally, Xanthi scored a vital two-one win over Panaliniakos to lift them to eleventh spot moving away from the dreaded relegation zone. Panathinaikos striker Dimitris Papadopoulos leads the goal scorers charts with seven goals to his name followed by PAOK's Dimitris Salpiyidis with six.



Action shown between AEK Athens and PAOK Salonika last week that ended in the home side's favour three-nil.

Egaleo 0 Panionios 0, Xanthi 2 Paniliakos 1, Kallithea 2 Akrotiros 2, OFI 1 Prodeftiki 0, Olympiakos 2 Ionikos 2, Aris 0 Iraklis 2, Halkidona 0 Panathinaikos 0, AEK Athens 3 PAOK 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Olympiakos	9	7	1	1	22	5	22
2 Panathinaikos	9	6	2	1	16	6	20
3 PAOK	9	5	2	2	15	9	17
4 Egaleo	9	5	2	2	9	4	17
5 AEK	9	4	3	2	16	11	15
6 Panionios	9	3	5	1	12	11	14
7 OFI	9	4	1	4	10	17	13
8 Halkidona	9	3	4	2	12	12	13
9 Iraklis	9	2	4	3	10	9	10
10 Aris	9	2	3	4	9	12	9
11 Xanthi	9	2	3	4	9	12	9
12 Paniliakos	9	2	3	4	13	14	9
13 Kallithea	9	1	4	4	14	16	7
14 Prodeftiki	9	1	4	4	5	12	7
15 Akrotiros	9	1	3	5	7	19	6
16 Ionikos	9	1	2	6	8	18	5

Scottish Premier League

Chris Sutton hit a hat-trick as leaders Celtic chalked up their 10th successive league win by demolishing Kilmarnock 5-0 and remain five points clear of Rangers.

Sutton's first came from a 20th minute penalty after a foul on Stilian Petrov but Celtic had to wait until the 70th minute to double their lead through John Hartson's header.

Sutton then added his second and after substitute Shaun Maloney had hit a fourth, the striker completed his hat-trick in the 90th minute to take his tally to nine for the season.

After 11 matches, Celtic have 31 points while Rangers have 26.

Champions Rangers defeated bottom club Partick Thistle 3-1 at Ibrox with two goals from Spanish midfielder Mikel Arteta but emerged with more injury worries.

Arteta curled in an early free kick and Dutch striker Michael Mols added a second before half-time. Arteta's penalty 13 minutes from time made it 3-0 before James Grady grabbed a late consolation.

Manager Alex McLeish, though, is concerned by a string of injuries including Christian Nerlinger and Fernando Ricksen.

Hearts sit in third after coming from a goal down to defeat Livingston 3-1.

Derek Lilley chested the ball into the net for the opening goal on 52 minutes however Hearts striker Mark de Vries fired a shot at goal, which took a touch off Andy Kirk on the way into the net 15 minutes later.

Northern Ireland international Kirk claimed that goal before bulleting home with five minutes remaining to give the Jambos the lead.

Captain Steven Pressley then ensured all three points would stay at Tynecastle when he converted an injury-time penalty.

In-form Motherwell thumped Aberdeen 3-0 at Pittodrie. Forward Steven Craig opened the scoring in the 10th minute before Celtic target Stephen Pearson increased the lead 13 minutes before the end.

Then, in the final minute, a Keith Lasley strike deflected off Aberdeen defender Alexander Diamond.

Dunfermline put their financial concerns to one side to record a 2-0 home victory over Dundee United.

Pars' captain Scott Thomson made the breakthrough in the 59th minute.

In the closing stages, substitute Billy Mehmet struck his first goal for the club to wrap up the points.

Former Scotland midfielder Craig Burley was sent off for a late tackle on his Dundee debut but the battling 10-man home side were well worthy of their 1-1 draw with Hibernian.

The visitors were behind and toiling to a Nacho Novo first-half goal but with 10 minutes remaining, Derek Riordan chipped the ball in off the post to give the Easter Road side a share of the points.



Chris Sutton (left), John Hartson (centre) and Henrik Larsson celebrate a comfortable 5-0 win over Kilmarnock.

Kilmarnock 0 Celtic 5, Rangers 3 Partick 1, Aberdeen 0 Motherwell 3, Dunfermline 2 Dundee Utd 0, Dundee 1 Hibernian 1, Hearts 3 Livingston 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Celtic	11	10	1	0	33	3	31
2 Rangers	11	8	2	1	30	9	26
3 Hearts	11	6	2	3	18	15	20
4 Dundee	11	4	4	3	14	12	16
5 Motherwell	10	4	3	3	13	12	15
6 Dunfermline	10	4	3	3	10	10	15
7 Hibernian	11	4	3	4	12	15	15
8 Livingston	11	3	4	4	11	13	13
9 Kilmarnock	11	3	2	6	12	25	11
10 Dundee United	11	2	3	6	7	19	9
11 Aberdeen	11	2	1	8	9	23	7
12 Partick	11	0	2	9	9	22	2

WORLD

French Ligue 1

French title contenders Monaco moved back to the top of the league table after a 4-2 victory over tailenders Le Mans.

Monaco started off sluggishly against Le Mans but the hosts only had to wait six minutes before Spanish midfielder Fernando Morientes put them in front with a delightfully-placed header from their first corner.

Le Mans hit back almost immediately with Laurent Peyrelade intercepting a Edouard Cisse clearance to hand Daniel Cousin the chance to beat Flavio Roma in the Monaco goal to level the scores.

With just one win in five, Rennes were looking for a victory to kick-start their stuttering season but were left frustrated following a 1-1 draw against Strasbourg.

Laszlo Boloni's home side took the lead with 27 minutes gone through Alexander Frei but with 72 minutes on the clock Mamadou Niang stole in to equalise and earn his side a share of the spoils.

An own goal from Eduardo Da Silva, a 24th-minute effort from Bonaventure Kalou and a 90th minute Philippe Violleau strike gave Auxerre a 3-0 win at Toulouse.

Sochaux climbed up to eighth with a narrow



Monaco's Jerome Rothen (right) fights for the ball with Thabang Molefe of Le Mans.

Peyrelade put Le Mans ahead two minutes later but their celebrations were short lived as Cousin landed an own goal in his side's net to level the scores.

In the second half Monaco moved up a gear and Sebastian Squillaci put the hosts ahead with his third goal of the season on the hour mark, with Le Mans defender Thabang Molefe scoring an own goal six minutes from time to seal their defeat.

Reigning champions Lyon smashed five unanswered goals past Nice with Brazilian midfielder Juninho helping himself to a brace of goals.

Nice - along with Nantes - had the best defence in the league and had only conceded seven goals in 11 matches, but Lyon soon changed that respectable record.

Juninho opened the scoring in the 25th minute before left winger Florent Malouda added a second only two minutes later. Lyon's cause was given a boost when Nice midfielder Romain Pitau was shown a direct red card for a foul from behind on Sidney Govou.

Six minutes before the break Giovane Elber struck Lyon's third to end his six-game goal drought and then Juninho crossed for Govou to fire past Nice goalie Damien Gregorini to put the hosts firmly in the driving seat.

Lyon maintained the pressure in a somewhat less dramatic second half as Juninho added his name to the scoresheet in the 73rd minute. Marseille dropped three valuable points after a 1-0 loss at Bordeaux.

Jean-Claude Darcheville scored the only goal of that game to hand new coach Michel Pavon his first league victory.

Bastia and Ajaccio drew 1-1 in the Corsican derby, Florian Maurice opening the scoring for Bastia before Walid Regragui equalised for Ajaccio.

Paris-St Germain 0 Lens 1, Lyon 5 Nice 0, Bordeaux 1 Marseille 0, Bastia 1 Ajaccio 1, Lille 1 En Avant Guingamp 3, Metz 0 Sochaux 1, Monaco 4 Le Mans 2, Montpellier 4 Nantes 1, Stade Rennes 1 Strasbourg 1, Toulouse 0 Auxerre 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Monaco	12	8	3	1	24	12	27
2 Lyon	12	7	3	2	23	8	24
3 Marseille	12	8	0	4	19	10	24
4 PSG	12	6	2	4	16	11	20
5 Nantes	12	6	1	5	13	11	19
6 Lens	12	6	1	5	9	15	19
7 Montpellier	12	5	3	4	17	14	18
8 Strasbourg	12	5	3	4	17	14	18
9 Sochaux	12	5	3	4	14	12	18
10 Bastia	12	5	3	4	16	16	18
11 Auxerre	12	5	2	5	18	13	17
12 Nice	12	4	5	3	10	12	17
13 Bordeaux	12	4	3	5	9	10	15
14 Metz	12	4	2	6	11	11	14
15 Rennes	12	3	5	4	9	9	14
16 Ajaccio	12	3	4	5	11	15	13
17 Lille	12	3	4	5	11	15	13
18 Guingamp	12	3	2	7	11	18	11
19 Toulouse	12	2	3	7	7	19	9
20 Mans	12	0	4	8	5	25	4

Serbia and Montenegro

Serbia and Montenegro league leaders Red Star Belgrade enjoyed a comfortable 3-1 win at Obilic to stay three points clear of champions and bitter rivals Partizan Belgrade.

Belgrade's big two teams clash in a potentially explosive derby this coming Saturday with Red Star in pole position on 25 points from 10 matches, ahead of Partizan and Sartil Smederevo who have 22 each.

Striker Nikola Zigic gave Red Star a 25th minute lead at Obilic with a spectacular goal after an excellent cross by midfielder Radovan Krivokapic.

Skipper Nemanja made it 2-0 with a 53rd minute penalty and Dragan Mrdja sealed Red Star's win in the 75th minute before Dejan Ilic grabbed a late consolation goal for the home team.

Struggling Vojvodina Novi Sad salvaged a point in a 2-2 home draw with cup holders Sartil Smederevo thanks to an 85th minute effort from veteran striker Zdravko Drincic.

All four goals were scored in an entertaining second half, Sartil's Miroslav Spasic and Nenad Miroslavljevic cancelling a 47th minute opener by Vojvodina's Branko Jelic.

Zoran Djuraskovic grabbed a brace in Zeleznik Belgrade's 4-2 win over city rivals Zemun to keep his team in the top five while OFK Belgrade stayed fourth with a hard-fought 1-0 home win over Hajduk Kula.

Champions Partizan strolled to a 3-0 home win over

Zeta Golubovci but looked far from impressive ahead of a vital Champions league clash with Real Madrid.

First division newcomers Buducnost Banatski Dvor continued their fine run of form with a 4-1 away win over bottom team Kom Podgorica to stay in sixth position, well placed to challenge for a UEFA Cup spot.

Vojvodina 2 Sartil 2, Obilic 1 Crvena Zvezda 3, Kom 1 Banatski 4, Borac 2 Obrenovac 2, OFK 1 Hajduk 0, Sutjeska 2 Napredak 1, Zeleznik 4 Zemun 2, Partizan 3 Zeta 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Crvena Zvezda	10	8	1	1	24	5	25
2 Sartil	10	7	1	2	23	15	22
3 Partizan	10	7	1	2	24	10	22
4 OFK	10	6	2	2	15	11	20
5 Zeleznik	10	6	1	3	16	8	19
6 Banatski	10	6	0	4	18	17	18
7 Hajduk	10	4	2	4	9	7	14
8 Sutjeska	10	4	1	5	13	14	13
9 Obilic	10	4	1	5	13	14	13
10 Zemun	10	3	3	4	9	9	12
11 Vojvodina	10	2	4	4	9	13	10
12 Napredak	10	2	3	5	8	13	9
13 Zeta	10	2	3	5	10	16	9
14 Obrenovac	10	1	4	5	7	16	7
15 Borac	10	1	3	6	9	24	6
16 Kom	10	2	0	8	9	24	6



FIFA WORLD RANKING

1 Brazil	834	1	0	1	0	51 Wales	558	50	-1	52	1
2 France	814	2	0	2	0	52 Côte d'Ivoire	555	59	7	64	12
3 Spain	762	2	-1	3	0	53 New Zealand	550	51	-2	49	-4
4 Argentina	754	5	1	5	1	54 Trinidad and Tobago	549	52	-2	47	-7
5 Netherlands	752	6	1	6	1	55 Slovakia	544	53	-2	55	0
6 Germany	745	4	-2	4	-2	56 Venezuela	544	63	8	69	14
7 Turkey	733	8	1	9	2	57 Austria	544	61	6	54	-1
8 England	727	7	-1	7	-1	58 Congo DR	541	65	7	65	7
9 United States	717	10	1	10	1	59 Iceland	538	70	11	58	-1
10 Czech Republic	712	13	3	15	5	60 Scotland	538	64	5	58	-1
11 Italy	711	12	1	13	2	61 Zimbabwe	536	55	-6	56	-5
12 Mexico	711	9	-2	8	-3	62 Estonia	534	61	-1	60	-2
13 Denmark	710	10	-3	12	-1	63 Cuba	532	56	-7	71	8
14 Ireland Republic	703	15	1	14	0	64 Iraq	531	56	-8	53	-11
15 Portugal	692	14	-1	11	-4	65 Thailand	529	59	-6	66	1
16 Cameroon	691	18	2	16	0	66 Guatemala	529	58	-7	78	13
17 Belgium	672	16	-1	17	0	67 Zambia	526	69	2	66	-1
18 Costa Rica	663	17	-1	21	3	68 Algeria	522	66	-2	68	0
19 Sweden	663	20	2	24	6	69 Ghana	513	67	-2	60	-9
20 Paraguay	657	19	-1	18	-2	70 Chile	510	73	3	84	14
21 Romania	652	27	6	24	3	71 China PR	510	68	-2	63	-7
22 Colombia	651	39	17	37	15	72 Burkina Faso	508	83	11	75	3
23 Norway	648	24	1	26	3	73 Mali	505	74	1	73	0
24 Japan	643	23	-1	22	-2	74 Qatar	499	71	-3	62	-12
25 Korea Republic	643	21	-3	20	-4	75 Bosnia-Herzegovina	495	72	-3	87	12
26 Croatia	640	26	0	32	6	76 Kenya	493	78	2	80	4
27 Serbia and Montenegro	636	22	-5	19	-8	77 Jordan	489	75	-2	77	0
28 Senegal	633	29	1	27	-1	78 Canada	482	77	-1	70	-8
29 Slovenia	628	36	7	36	7	79 Latvia	481	79	0	78	-1
30 Russia	627	25	-5	22	-8	80 Peru	480	81	1	82	2
31 Nigeria	626	32	1	29	-2	81 Angola	479	86	5	76	-5
32 Uruguay	626	28	-3	28	-3	82 Belarus	478	76	-6	74	-8
33 South Africa	619	31	-2	30	-3	83 Cyprus	474	88	5	80	-3
34 Greece	619	45	12	48	15	84 Haiti	473	80	-4	71	-13
35 Poland	619	29	-4	33	0	85 El Salvador	469	82	-3	94	9
36 Ecuador	616	33	-3	31	-5	86 Togo	468	92	6	85	-1
37 Morocco	613	38	1	35	-2	87 Georgia	468	84	-2	90	4
38 Bulgaria	612	35	-3	42	4	88 Albania	466	89	1	93	5
39 Egypt	606	44	5	39	0	89 Indonesia	465	84	-5	110	21
40 Switzerland	605	43	3	44	4	90 Macedonia FYR	461	93	3	85	-5
41 Iran	600	34	-7	33	-8	91 Kuwait	455	87	-4	83	-8
42 Honduras	596	37	-5	40	-2	92 Libya	455	97	6	104	13
43 Tunisia	596	40	-2	41	-1	93 Syria	445	90	-3	91	-2
44 Israel	593	40	-4	46	2	94 Barbados	442	94	0	99	5
45 Finland	585	45	0	43	-2	95 United Arab Emirates	439	90	-5	89	-6
46 Saudi Arabia	581	42	-4	38	-8	96 Vietnam SR	439	95	0	108	13
47 Ukraine	579	47	0	45	-2	97 Singapore	439	98	3	118	23
48 Jamaica	571	48	0	51	3	98 Liberia	438	96	-2	88	-10
49 Hungary	570	54	5	56	7	99 Lithuania	427	99	0	100	1
50 Australia	562	49	-1	50	0	100 Congo	423	100	0	97	-3

Manchester Utd 2003/04



Back Row (L-R) Ruud van Nistelrooy, Quinton Fortune, John O'Shea, Rio Ferdinand, Tim Howard, Roy Keane.

Front Row (L-R) Mikael Silvestre, Phil Neville, Paul Scholes, Gary Neville, Ryan Giggs.